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Further on ASEAN Meetings

Post-Ministerial Conference Concludes

BK2307123391 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0726 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The foreign ministers of ASEAN and their seven dialogue partners Tuesday concluded the final plenary session of their Post Ministerial Conference (PMC), having discussed security in the Asia Pacific region and getting an update on the U.S. peace initiative in West Asia.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi, talking to reporters after the meeting, said the question of security in the region was discussed at length. He said the delegates noted that security and development were inter-related and vital to maintain peace and stability in the region. But Abdullah said security did not necessarily mean armaments.

He also said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker briefed the meeting on the U.S. peace initiative in West Asia. Baker arrived here at dawn Tuesday after a swing of five West Asian countries in an effort to help convene Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Abdullah said Baker's report raised hopes of a peaceful settlement of the West Asian conflict. On the meeting, he said the discussions had been "constructive and fruitful".

He said the views put forward by some of the delegates echoed their opening statements at the PMC Monday. Several of the dialogue partners had suggested at the opening that the PMC be devoted solely to discussing security in the region but ASEAN had insisted that security be only one of the topics.

Abdullah had said Monday he saw no reason why the PMC should exclusively discuss security when "we have benefited so much from discussions on other topics as well."

Responding to a question, Abdullah said ASEAN would consider the Japanese proposal made at the opening Monday for a meeting of senior officials of ASEAN and its dialogue partners to discuss security in the Asia Pacific region.

Following the conclusion of the plenary sessions, the ASEAN ministers have begun a series of meetings with each of the dialogue partners.

Indonesia's Alatas: Meeting 'Very Significant'

BK2207101691 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1006 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jul 22 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said here over the weekend that the 24th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was very significant for the preparation of the upcoming 4th ASEAN summit due to be held in Singapore early next year.

Adressing the closing of the two-day meeting attended by foreign ministers of all ASEAN member countries, Alatas said discussions coping with various issues and exchange of views by the participants would reflect the success of the forthcoming summit scheduled for January 27-28 next year.

The most important thing to do is to help Singapore which will be the host of the next summit in order to make the summit a success, he said.

Meanwhile, at a meeting with Indonesian journalists covering the event, Alatas said the agenda for the summit would be worked out a joint committee consisting of representatives from the six member countries of the organization which was established in 1967.

The agenda will also include a proposal by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed on the establishment of an East Asian Economic Group (EAEG), he said.

Concerning Indonesia's views on the idea, the minister said that Indonesia was open-minded in the sense that it would study the proposal extensively.

In the meantime, a joint communique issued at the end of the ASEAN ministerial meeting Saturday, said the six foreign ministers agreed that it was high time to hold the ASEAN summit.

The ASEAN leaders held their last summit in Manila in 1987 during which they agreed that the association would organize the summit once in at least three years.

Further on Alatas' Remarks

BK2407101491 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0828 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 24 (OANA-ANTARA)—The dialogue between the six ASEAN nations and the European Community (EC) here on Tuesday moved on smoothly because the two sides turned out to share similar views on human rights and life environment, two issues initially feared to slow the talks.

"I think between ASEAN and the EC an adequately positive dialog had been achieved," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told the press at the end of the dialog.

He said right from the start the ASEAN side had told the EC delegates which were led by the Netherlands that ASEAN also held the principles of human rights and life environment as very important in the implementation of national development.

ASEAN also had never refused to discuss the two issues, for in fact the ASEAN countries had applied the principles of human rights and life environment preservation in their respective development policies, Alatas said.

"What we (ASEAN) cannot accept is the raising of the two issues as new conditionalities in economic and trade cooperation," Alatas quoted the ASEAN group as asserting to their EC counterparts.

According to Alatas, the EC delegates responded by saying that they had no intention to make the human rights and life environment issues as new conditionalities in economic and trade cooperation.

The EC, Alatas said, felt it necessary to raise the issues in the dialog with ASEAN only on the consideration that the parliaments of the member nations of both groups had become more sensitive to these issues lately.

Human rights and life environment protection are not going to be new conditionalities. They are only to be considered as important things in national development, the EC delegates said according to the Indonesian foreign minister.

For example, the EC only wanted that in the preambles of any cooperation agreements between the two sides it should be mentioned that man is the agent and recipient of the results of development.

"In reference to that, we too in Indonesia have the same desire for in Indonesia the development of the whole man is regarded as the final end of national development and man is at the same time the main factor of development," Alatas declared.

ASEAN, EC To Set Up Management Center

BK2307073191 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0705 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—ASEAN and the European Community (EC) Tuesday signed a pact to set up an ASEAN-EC management centre which will, among other things, develop the capacities of management training in ASEAN.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister of Brunei Darussalam, Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, on behalf of ASEAN, and the EC commissioner, Abel Matutes.

The centre, to be located in the Brunei capital Bandar Seri Begawan, will be funded by the EC and Brunei. The centre was proposed during the ASEAN-EC ministerial meeting in Dusseldorf in May 1988, an ASEAN-EC statement said. The other ASEAN countries will also contribute in kind, particularly for conducting activities outside the centre.

The statement said the other objectives of the centre were to facilitate the development and evolution of new ideas, concepts, strategies and policies relevant to ASEAN's long-term needs; to utilise public administration and business management skills existing within institutions in ASEAN and to establish linkages between ASEAN and the EC to cover other areas like trade.

The centre will involve all ASEAN countries in its decision- making process to ensure the centre's responsiveness to ASEAN needs, besides maintaining close links with similar centres in Europe.

The statement also said that the centre will also take a leadership role in addressing contemporary issues and problems in comparative, regional and inter-regional perspectives, with a view to formulating innovative management techniques relevant to the requirements of ASEAN managers.

"It will also help ASEAN management training institutions to develop their capacities by organising regional re-training and further training activities for their teaching and administrative staff," it added.

Indonesian, Australian Ministers Hold Talks

BK2307124091 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Indonesia and Australia held bilateral consultations to discuss expansion of cooperation before the opening of the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference between ASEAN foreign ministers and their dialogue partners in Kuala Lumpur this morning. During the meeting which is held at Australia's request, the Indonesian delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas while the Australian side was headed by its foreign affairs and trade minister, Gareth Evans.

Speaking after the meeting, Foreign Minister Alatas said both sides had tried to give concrete substance and weight to the growing bilateral relations by promoting cooperation in various areas. There are several areas of cooperation which are still being discussed, including an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation, extradition treaty, and fishery agreement.

Australian Minister Seeks Access for Exports

BK2407100691 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, has called for greater access for Australian exports to the markets of the ASEAN group of countries. Speaking at the meeting with ASEAN foreign ministers in Kuala Lumpur, Senator Evans said the region's rapid economic growth and recognized stability had rendered obsolete an earlier donor and recipient relationship between Australia and ASEAN members.

He said that while some ASEAN states had offered to reduce or [word indistinct] their tariffs, such moves would not be comprehensive enough to benefit exports or match Canberra's own dismantling of tariffs.

Papua New Guinea, Malaysian Ministers Meet

BK2307105291 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0952 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Papua New Guinea (PNG) Tuesday gave an undertaking that it will support Malaysia's role and initiatives in the international arena.

Its foreign minister, Michael Somare, said one example of such backing would be for the proposed East Asia Economic Group (EAEG).

He told BERNAMA he gave this assurance when he called on Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed at his office.

Somare said he had asked Dr. Mahathir to encourage the Malaysian private sector to establish banks and financial institutions in PNG, saying the setting up of such institutions would help generate employment.

The PNG foreign minister said he also raised with Dr. Mahathir his country's request for Malaysian assistance to train police and defence personnel, and added that these matters would be discussed at the officials' level.

He said PNG also required science teachers, and that his country was prepared to offer them contracts similar to those given to teachers from Britain and Australia.

Somare was here to attend the ASEAN ministerial meeting (AMM) held over the weekend. PNG is an observer at the AMM.

South Korean, Japanese Ministers Discuss DPRK

SK2407054791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0529 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)—Foreign ministers of South Korea and Japan agreed Wednesday that normalization of ties between North Korea and Japan should be sought in a way contributing to inter-Korean relations, the Korean Foreign Ministry said.

South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama, meeting at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, reaffirmed that Japan's normalization talks with North Korea, to be resumed in late August, should proceed in a way promoting the progress of inter-Korean relations, the Ministry said.

Yi and Nakayama are in the Malaysian capital attending the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' post-ministerial conference.

Nakayama explained Yi that the Tokyo-Pyongyang talks on normalization of relations were to be resumed as North Korea had filed an application for the United Nations membership and because it had expressed the will to sign the nuclear safeguard accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The fourth Tokyo-Pyongyang talks on normalization will be held in Beijing in late August, Nakayama told Yi. The Japanese minister said his government would closely consult with Seoul in the course of mending fences with Pyongyang.

Noting the Tokyo-Pyongyang normalization talks were likely to coincide with the fourth round of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks, Yi stressed that the negotiations for normalization should progress towards substantial development of inter-Korean relations.

More on Meeting

SK2407114291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1109 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Wednesday Tokyo will consider adjusting the dates of talks with Pyongyang so that it will not coincide with inter-Korean prime ministers' meeting late next month.

Nakayama was responding to South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang- ok's request that Pyongyang-Tokyo diplomatic normalization talks should not overlap with inter-Korean negotiations set for Aug. 27- 30 in North Korea.

The two leaders met in Kuala Lumpur during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) post-ministerial conference.

In a report to the Foreign Ministry here, Kim Sok-u, director- general of the Asian Affairs Bureau, said the two leaders agreed that Pyongyang-Tokyo talks should not become an impediment to inter- Korean dialogue.

On Yi's request that the dates of the Pyongyang-Tokyo meeting, reportedly set for late August, be readjusted, Nakayama was quoted as saying that his government will "positively consider" it.

Tokyo and Pyongyang have been engaged in negotiations since January this year aimed at establishing official ties.

The Japanese Foreign Minister made clear that North Korea's signing of the Nuclear Safeguards Accord is not enough to fully satisfy his country in connection with the problem of diplomatic normalization. Even if North Korea signs the accord, Nakayama was quoted as saying, the question of Pyongyang's full implementation of the accord is yet to be answered.

They discussed possible meeting between South and North Korean foreign ministers during the United Nations General Assembly in New York this September.

Nakayama invited Yi to an official dinner he and his Indonedian counterpart Ali Alatas will be hosting during the General Assembly for Foreign Ministers from Asia-Pacific countries. The two leaders agreed that they will exchange information with each other on whether North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam will also attend.

The Japanese foreign minister asked for South Korea's support for Tokyo's bid to be elected non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, and Yi pledged full support.

They two leaders also discussed trade matters, stressing the need to correct South Korea's 5.7 billion U.S. dollar trade deficit recorded last year with Japan.

Thailand Minister Urges Japan To Open Markets

BK2407013391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jul 91 p A2

[Text] Thailand yesterday asked Japan to open its markets wider to Thai exports in a bid to rectify a trade imbalance that has been in Japan's favour for two decades.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin sought to address the sensitive issue with his Japanese counterpart, Dr Taro Nakayama, during an informal discussion on bilateral relations after they had attended the second day of the post-ministerial conference.

"We have been running a trade deficit with Japan for a long time, and so we asked them today to give us a better chance to sell our goods in their market," Asa told reporters after the meeting.

Prying open the lucrative, but highly protected, Japanese market has been a source of bitter conflict between Japan and its trading partners, particularly the United States, for a number of years. Thailand, now shipping 17 percent of its total exports to Japan but still running a trade deficit with it, has also been trying to rectify the imbalance.

However, Nakayama was reported to have said that the bilateral trade situation should be improving with a growing number of Japanese companies relocating their manufacturing industries to Thailand for export and re-export back to Japan.

He said some 800 Japanese companies are lining up for applications from the Board of Investment seeking promotional privileges to set up their manufacturing operations in Thailand. And this prospect should help reduce the trade deficit Thailand is running with Japan once the Japanese firms start exporting, he added.

Japan To Host Meeting on Aid for Mongolia

OW2307143691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 23 KYODO—Japan has agreed to host a conference of countries ready to provide Mongolia with economic assistance, Japanese officials said.

Japan's decision was disclosed during a meeting with noncommunist Southeast Asian countries and their major trading partners under way in Kuala Lumpur, the officials said.

U.S. officials said Secretary of State James Baker told the three-day meeting ending Wednesday that Mongolia is going through democratic change and thus deserves to be helped.

It was the first reference to aid for Mongolia at the annual talks between foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its seven dialogue partners.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is scheduled to visit Mongolia as well as China in caugust.

The proposed conference of aid donors for Mongolia is another bid by Tokyo to play a greater political role in world and regional affairs, officials said.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The partners are Japan, South Korea, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Community (EC).

Japanese Minister Reaffirms Rice Issue Stand

OW2407120391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 24 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama repeated his government's stance not to agree to rice imports with a tariff system, during a meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.

Nakayama made the remark after Evans told him much is expected of Japan, including the liberalization of its rice imports, in the context of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Tariffication would involve the phased-in introduction of increasingly lower tariffs leading to ultimate liberalization.

The two ministers were in Malaysia to attend the three-day annual conference between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its dialogue partners, which began Monday.

Evans told Nakayama he supports a Japanese proposal for a forum for strengthening political dialogue on security with ASEAN countries.

He told Nakayama ASEAN countries appear cautious over the proposal, but are not opposed to it.

Japan

Hashimoto 'Unlikely' To Visit USSR

OW2507130491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Japan's Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is unlikely to visit Moscow with other Group of Seven (G-7) finance ministers in September, as suggested by Germany, or any time soon, a top-ranking Finance Ministry official said Thursday.

The official's remarks follow a report German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said last Tuesday the G-7 finance ministers are likely to visit Moscow together in September. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "we cannot just visit Moscow for simple discussions."

He said it is unlikely the conditions Japan requires before extending financial assistance to the Soviet Union will eventuate in the near future.

The official also pointed to the problem of how to ensure any technological assistance from Western countries to the Soviet Union will not find its way into the Soviet military sector. Hashimoto said recently Japan cannot make any decision on such assistance until the issue is settled.

The official said the minister could go to Moscow in September if all the barriers to Japanese aid to the Soviet Union, including the territorial dispute over four islands off Hokkaido, are settled by then.

Defense Agency To Decline USSR Offer

OW2507125791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Japan will decline an invitation by the Soviet Union to observe a three-day naval drill scheduled for the Sea of Japan in mid-August, Defense Agency sources said Thursday.

The sources said the time is still not ripe to send military observers and that the two countries should promote military exchanges on a step-by-step basis to build confidence in each other.

The Japanese Government hopes the Soviet Union will make its naval information public prior to issuing invitations to observe Soviet naval exercises, they said.

The Soviet Pacific Fleet will conduct the three-day drill from August 14 with about 20 warships, 35 aircraft and helicopters, and about 10,000 military personnel taking part.

Further on Underwriting Soviet Trade Insurance

OW2307180591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1445 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—The Japanese Government is plannning to underwrite new trade insurance in hopes of revitalizing trade with the Soviet Union, a top official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] said Tuesday.

Japan's trade with the Soviet Union has come to a virtual halt due to an estimated 500 million dollars worth of unsettled trade bills.

The official, who asked for anonymity, said MITI had planned to help Japanese trading houses clear their troubled accounts with Moscow before the commitment was made last week in London by leaders of the group of seven industrialized nations to help integrate the Soviet Union into the global economy.

Japanese creditors will be advised to bail out Soviet debtors with the help of domestic commercial banks.

The ministry will then underwrite new trade insurance worth up to 200 million dollars to cover the risk, he said.

The Soviet Bank of Foreign Economic Affairs, the only Soviet bank which can settle business transactions in foreign currencies, will be the sole eligible borrower.

The Soviet bank will then settle bad debts through new loans. The bank can also take time to settle new loans after collecting money from original debtors—mostly public corporations, according to the official.

Tokyo To Send Self-Defense Officials to Iraq

OW2507060391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0541 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—The government said Thursday it will dispatch two Self-Defense Forces officials to Iraq to join a U.N. reasearch team in scrapping Iraq's chemical weapons.

The government said it will send two officials of the Ground Self-Defense Force's staff office specializing in chemical weapons to Iraq as "a Foreign Ministry official and a Self-Defense official" at the request of the United Nations.

The U.N. team of chemical specialists from various countries was created under the ceasefire agreement in the Persian Gulf war and a U.N. resolution on weapons of mass destruction.

The team is to inspect several Iraqi chemical weapon production plants starting in early September, before seeing that the weapons, including nerve gas and other poisonous gases, are destroyed.

In June, Self-Defense officials specializing in chemical weapons visited China to inspect weapons left by the

Japanese military at the end of World War II but the mission to Iraq will be the first time they are dispatched at the request of the U.N.

Mitsubishi, C. Itoh Win Saudi Arabian Order

OW2407083991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0411 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. and C. Itoh and Co. have won a 13 billion yen order to supply Saudi Arabia with a desalination plant to change seawater to drinking water, Mitsubishi officials said Wednesday.

The plant, ordered by the Saudi Arabian Saline Water Conversion Corp. and which will be one of the world's largest, will be able to process some 56,000 tons of seawater a day, the officials said.

The plant will be constructed in Jeddah, which borders the Red Sea, and be used for the city's drinking-water supply, they said.

The plant is expected to be completed by March 1994.

Kaifu To Visit Flood Areas in China 10 Aug

OW2407145591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1441 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will visit flooded areas along the Yangzi River on August 10 and announce a Japanese pledge to extend 1 million dollars (about 140 million yen) in additional aid to help China cope with the disaster, government sources said Wednesday.

Kaifu is preparing to change the itinerary of his five-day trip to China and Mongolia by first arriving in Shanghai prior to going to Beijing to hold meetings with Chinese leaders, the sources said.

Political analysts said it is rare for a Japanese prime minister to visit the scene of a natural disaster in a foreign country before having talks with leaders there.

Kaifu hopes his visit will help foster close relations between Tokyo and Beijing, the analysts said.

The government sources said Kaifu will arrive in Shanghai from Tokyo on August 10 and a helicopter will airlift him to flooded areas downstream of China's largest river.

Following his visit to the disaster areas, Kaifu will fly to Beijing to have talks with President Yang Shangkun, Prime Minister Li Peng, Communist Party Chief Jiang Zemin and other leaders, the sources said.

The flood along the Yangtze River in Anhui and Jiangsu Provinces killed more than 1,000 people and caused suffering to tens of millions of people.

Japan has already granted medical and other material aid worth about 200,000 dollars (about 70 million yen) to China.

Trade Talks With U.S. Includes Cars Sales

OW2407141091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Japan and the United States ended two days of talks on bilateral automobile parts trade Wednesday after agreeing to add the issue of increasing U.S.-made car sales in Japan to the parts talks.

The negotiators at the so-called Market-Oriented Sector-Selective (MOSS) trade talks on auto parts, held at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), said they will hold talks on cars themselves under the name of "MOSS talks on automobile trade opportunity."

Next time, the two countries will discuss what schemes are necessary to boost U.S. car sales in Japan and how such schemes can be implemented, according to miti officials who attended the moss meeting.

They tentatively agreed to conduct research on the Japanese market's structure, automotive business transactions, and other areas, in order to come up with schemes to tackle a chronic U.S. deficit in trade between the two countries.

They will meet again in September, probably in Washington, to decide the details of the research, the officials said.

Holding of auto trade talks was requested by the U.S. side, which concerned about growing voices at home that more U.S. cars should be sold in Japan, and, if this is not possible, it means trade barriers exist in the Japanese market.

Japan believes there is no barrier in the Japanese car market against foreign-made vehicles, but agreed to do what it can do to put the market in "good condition" for fair competition, the officials said.

Boosting Japan's imports of U.S.-made cars has been called for by the U.S. industry as well as by Congress, and U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle brought up the issue during his visit to Japan in April.

Many such calls have pointed out that Japan's standards for on such points as safety tests and exhaust emissions are unnecessarily strict, and that the interlocking business ties among automakers and dealers in Japan obstruct U.S. car sales.

The MITI officials said Japan would not refuse to discuss those points in the new auto talks.

On the original agnda for talks on auto parts, the negotiators generally agreed that the review of the one-year-old action program aimed at increasing the use of U.S. car parts by Japanese automakers is going well, the officials said.

Wednesday, Michael Farren, U.S. undersecretary of commerce for international trade, and Noboru Hatakeyama, Japan's vice minister of International Trade and Industry, held a high-level session.

They discussed the achievements of the so-called design-in programs, under which Japanese automakers organized business conferences in Chicago and Las Vegas earlier this year to invite American auto parts suppliers to participate in new model car production.

The efforts of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association in publishing pamphlets on business customs and other situations in the Japanese automotive industry were also highly evaluated.

An expert meeting set for September will discuss the issues of auto parts and U.S. cars.

After that, high-level talks will be held in January or February next year, the MITI officials said, stressing the negotiators had made an "overall framework" for correcting the trade imbalance between the two countries, of which auto trade accounts for a major portion.

Tokyo To Respond to Demands of Fishing Controls

OW2407122591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1039 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Japan will respond to U.S. and Soviet demands for restrictions on hauls of Alaska pollack in the Bering Sea to preserve fish resources in the area, government officials said Wednesday.

The officials said Japan's decision will be made known at three-day fishery talks opening in Tokyo on July 31 on controlling operations in the Bering Sea.

The session will be attended by representatives from six countries concerned—Japan, the United States, the Soviet Union, South Korea, Poland, and China, the officials said.

In the previous session held in February, the United States and the Soviet Union proposed a total ban on fishing operations in the sea.

The fisheries agency said Japan will oppose a total ban and instead will accept a catch quota, the officials said.

Hauls in international waters in the Bering Sea totaled about 1.4 million tons in 1989, with Japan's catches accounting for 650,000 tons, agency officials said.

Japan's catches in the region have decreased annually in recent years because of a voluntary reduction in the number of fishing boats sent to the area, they said.

The officials said there is little room for agreement on fishing restrictions at the Tokyo session because South Korea, China, and Poland, which fish in the Bering Sea, are strongly opposed to restrictions on their operations.

Dietmen Conclude Okinawa Inspection Tour

OW2507061491 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 25 Jul 91 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Takamori Makino, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, and other dietmen concluded their 3-day inspection tour of Okinawa Prefecture, mainly of the military bases of the U.S. forces stationed in Okinawa. Prior to returning, they held a press conference at Naha Airport yesterday afternoon.

At this news conference, Chairman Makino touched on the issue of the U.S. military bases in Okinawa, and said: "The major point at issue concerns a broad area of land that is used by the U.S. forces." Thus, he stressed the need of reducing and consolidating the U.S. military bases. As for the law on Special Measures for Promoting Diversion of Military-Occupied Land, which the prefectural government has been requesting the central government to adopt, Chairman Makino indicated his understanding of the purpose of this request, and said: "It still remains undecided as to what measures will be taken. However, the Foreign Affairs Committee for its part will do its best to have the prefectural government's plan realized."

As for his impressions gained from the current tour, Chairman Makino said: "Okinawa Prefecture's residents have been asked to bear many troubles not only during the war but also after the war. It is true that from the standpoint of ensuring Japan's security, the U.S. forces have to be stationed here. However, it is certainly questionable whether Okinawa's residents should be asked to bear heavier burden than those living on Honsyu [mainland Japan]." In this way, he indicated his understanding of the fact that existing military bases have imposed a heavy burden on the prefectural residents.

With regard to the issue of reducing and consolidating military bases here in the future, he said: "Due to volcanic explosions, it remains unknown as to what will happen to the U.S. military bases in the Philippines. However, thanks to the international situation, in which tension has been defused, it may become possible to reduce and consolidate military bases without looking for alternate land lots. And I think this issue will be studied from various standpoints."

Furthermore, Chairman Makino also touched on the issue of a future program for developing Okinawa, and indicated his views as follows: "The development program must be promoted and various problems settled by taking into account the current situation in Okinawa as well as the intentions of prefectural residents. As far as the Foreign Affairs Committee is concerned, we will give lateral support for this program."

Business Lobby Group Urges Opening Rice Market

OW2507143691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1327 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Karuizawa, Nagano Pref., July 25 KYODO—One of Japan's major business lobby groups will call on the government to let in foreign rice to help break the logjam in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks, industry sources said Thursday.

The request is a focal point in the recommendations the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai) will present to the government around October, the sources said.

The interim report on the recommendations, released at Doyukai's annual summer seminar in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture, said, "Japan needs to make every possible effort to prevent global trade from lapsing into the hands of protectionists.

"The government should decide to gradually open the rice market to help the Uruguay Round achieve a successful conclusion," it said.

The four-year round, sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), has stagnated due to the deep gulf between the United States and the European Community (EC) over farm trade reform.

In belief that Japan's concessions on rice will prod Brussels to give in, Washington has been pressuring Japan to lift its virtual ban on foreign rice.

ANC Urges Sanctions Against South Africa

OW2407123991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1133 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—The Tokyo representative of the African National Congress (ANC) called on the government Wednesday to delay lifting economic sanctions following revelations over the weekend the South African Government covertly funded a rival black political party.

"The credibility of the government is on the rocks because of the scandal," Jerry Matsila said. "I asked the Foreign Ministry not to lift sanctions under the present situation because of government corruption," he said in a telephone interview.

A ministry official said the government has not decided on the timing of lifting sanctions. Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, asked earlier in the day about the scandal's impact on sanctions, said he was unaware of the widely reported controversy, dubbed by the ANC as "Inkathagate."

The ANC called for the resignation of Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and Defense Minister Magnus Malan following reports high officials authorized funds for Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party to hold rallies.

The ANC maintains the support for Inkatha was aimed at derailing efforts to end apartheid. The government says the secret contributions were part of its antisanctions program. Inkatha opposes economic sanctions.

The United States lifted sanctions earlier this month, and Japanese Government sources had earlier hinted they intend to follow suit soon, perhaps as early as next week.

Firm's Joint Oil Venture With Norway Noted

OW2507003991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0017 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Idemitsu Kosan Co. group will be involved in producing 300,000 barrels a day of oil at peak times off the Norwegian coast next fall, its spokesman said Thursday.

Stat Oil of Norway is the top invester in the joint venture project, holding a 41.4 percent share, while Idemitsu Snorre Oil Development Co. invested 9.6 percent.

Idemitsu Kosan plans to buy about 30,000 barrels a day of the group's crude oil production from the Snorre oil field in the North Sea.

The plans are the group's first for producing crude oil overseas for commercial purposes.

To reduce transport costs, the oil is expected to be swapped for Middle East oil before being shipped to Japan, the spokesman said.

SDPJ Chairman-Elect Tanabe Interviewed

OW2407115991 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Interview with Makoto Tanabe, chairman-elect of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], by NHK announcer Tadashi Sonoda; from the "News 21" program—live]

[Text] [Sonoda] Mr. Tanabe, in view of the unexpected number of dissenting votes, can we say that a consensus on the party reform program has not been sufficiently built inside the party? Are you thinking of revising the party reform program?

[Tanabe] The party reform program we presented recently came out of the predicament of how to reform, revitalize, and advance forward in a manner compatible with reality, while seriously taking into account the party's basic principles thus far. Therefore, on our part, we would certainly like to win the agreement of the entire party concerning the basic elements of the reform program. However, as I have just said, as to inadequate points and provisions which might give rise to misunderstanding, they can well be discussed in the special party convention. Such is my view. I hope that we will be able to maintain and forge unity in the whole party.

[Sonoda] In that case, you intend to insist on a realistic policy on the issues of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] in the party reform program.

[Tanabe] Yes indeed. We would like to uphold lofty principles while taking realistic steps to advance steadily. Certainly, it is not a pleasant thing to look at reality. However, there can be no genuine reform and realistic responses if we do not look straight at reality. Such is my thinking, and I would like that this be perceived as our basic stance.

[Sonoda] The alienation from the SDPJ [Social Democratic Party of Japan] by the Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party, which used to be the SDPJ's partners in the opposition parties' joint struggle, has been aggravated. From the point of view of your desire to become the ruling party, I think a general mobilization of opposition forces is indispensable. How do you intend to put a stop to this alienation from the SDPJ by the other opposition parties?

[Tanabe] I think none of us think that everything is good or everything is bad about current Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] politics. At present, with regard to political reform, it is our common understanding that the LDP will propose a single-seat district system to establish its permanent rule. Thus, in the upcoming extraordinary Diet session, I am confident that discussions among the opposition parties and cooperation in the policy formation process will be possible. On our part, we would like to turn over a new page and begin discussions without any biases. I am sure that common points can be found, and opposition parties will be able to join hands in the Upper House elections next year.

[Sonoda] It is a well-known fact that you have close relations with the LDP's former deputy prime minister, Mr. Kanemaru. Mr. Kanemaru has put forth a scheme for reorganization of the political world through a coalition of the LDP and SDPJ. How would you approach the LDP henceforth?

[Tanabe] I have always maintained that if the LDP remains unchanged, it is impossible to achieve a political regime based on a coalition of conservative and reformist forces. Therefore, we opt for a political scenario based on cooperation among the opposition parties and cultivating political forces capable of taking over the government. That is the basic thing. Of course, politics change according to changing circumstances. At present, do you think the LDP will break up? I do not think it is likely to break up. It will be extremely dangerous for us to enter the scene under such circumstances. On our part, we will stick to our present position while responding to conditions in the political scene as the situation demands. I am confident that this will, in the end, lead to the alternative political regime or the change of political regime that the people desire.

[Sonoda] Thank you, Mr. Tanabe, for taking time out from your busy schedule today.

[Tanabe] Not at all. Please continue your favors toward me. [kongo tomo yoroshiku]

Tokyo Studies Import Promotion Measures

OW2407120191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—The government, concerned over Japan's growing trade surplus, has begun studying measures to promote imports and foreign investment, officials said Wednesday. The officials said the study, being made by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, will include expansion of import promotion financing and lowering of interest rates on such loans.

The government-financed Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) will bolster a staff of experts assigned to discover promising foreign products for the Japanese market. The present staff of 29 will be increased with the enrollment of about seven new recruits next spring, the officials said.

Two governmental financial institutions, the Export-Import Bank of Japan and the Japan Development Bank, will increase loans to promote product imports and foreign investment in Japan, they said.

Japan's trade surplus in the first half of this year surged 26.3 percent over the same period last year due to brisk exports and weakening crude oil prices. The government is concerned that Japan's surplus for the whole of this year may far exceed its projection of 56 billion dollars, the officials said.

The ministry will also negotiate with other ministries and agencies to simplify quarantine and customs clearance procedures in response to strong requests from the United States and European countries, they said.

Further Reportage on Securities Scandal

OW2407181891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1445 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has begun study to work out guidelines for securities houses to publish the names of companies they paid to cover the clients' trading losses, a top-ranking ministry official said Wednesday.

The official said the ministry feels the need for brokerages to name the compensation recipients to quiet national anger at the snowballing stock scandal, but unchecked disclosure would do more harm than good.

"We know the people will be frustrated as long as the names are kept unpublished. But an unrestricted release of all the names will have a negative effect, like infringing the privacy of companies involved," said the official who asked for anonymity.

He said the guidelines will set out to the brokerages the extent of the details they should give.

The ministry had been negative about naming compensation recipients, but changed its mind to get through the forthcoming extraordinary Diet session in August, where opposition parties are sure to push for the release by the ministry of the recipients' list.

The proliferating scandals over the big four's payouts to favored clients and financial support to a crime syndicate figure have been vexing the Tokyo stock market, costing the jobs of top industry officials, including Setsuya Tabuchi, chairman of Nomura Securities Co, this week.

But the national furor is far from being put to rest, as calls are intensifying from some corners of business and political circles for compensation recipients to be dragged into the spotlight to receive due humiliation.

Takeshi Nagano, chairman of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), urged the ministry to disclose the names earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, securities companies appear willing to follow the planned guidelines.

An official with one of the "big four" brokerages said, "We will be forced to name the companies, depending on the situations."

The industry has been adamantly against such disclosure, saying it would go against their business practices.

Hashimoto Apologizes

OW2507032891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0226 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Finance Minster Ryutaro Hashimoto said Thursday in the Diet that major securities firms should reveal lists of corporate clients they compensated for trading losses.

Hashimoto apologized to the House of Representatives Finance Committee for his ministry's responsibility for the securities scandal. The committee began intensive deliberations on the securities scandal in the morning.

Japan's "big four" brokerage houses have reported to the Finance Ministry that they paid more than 120 billion yen to make up for losses suffered by favored clients in the 18 months preceding the end of fiscal 1989 in March 1990.

Nomura, Nikko, Daiwa, and Yamaichi securities companies have admitted compensating favored clients for trading losses.

Nobuhiko Matsuno, head of the Finance Ministry's Securities Bureau, also told the lower house committee that six other securities houses reported to the ministry in March last year that they compensated favored clients for 35 billion yen in losses.

The six securities firms will submit revised reports on the compansation to the ministry, Matsuno said.

The session was the committee's first chance to question Finance Ministry officials and Minoru Nagaoka, president of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, on the securities scandal.

Nomura executives who resigned because of the scandal were not summoned for questioning.

Hashimoto Not To Quit

OW2507062891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0537 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Thursday he will not resign and opposed a proposed new securities watchdog, despite the compensation scandals involving the big four brokerage houses and several second-tier brokerage houses.

Speaking before the House of Representatives' Finance Committee, Hashimoto said his resignation would not serve to restore public confidence in the stock market and stressed that it is his duty to prevent a recurrence of similar scandals.

The lower house committee began hearings Thursday on the scandals in which the securities companies compensated major corporate clients for billions of yen in securities market losses.

Such compensation is not illegal if it is not promised in advance. But it violates ministry guidelines and has infuriated general investors.

In his testimony, Hashimoto opposed creating a watchdog body similar to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) despite growing calls by some business leaders for such an independent agency.

"Such a system would not fit Japan as Japan adopts a license system for brokerage houses," he said.

Repeating his earlier remarks, Hashimoto said the brokerage houses in question should reveal the names of their clients that received loss compensation.

Hashimoto said his ministry could not disclose the names of such corporations because of the mandatory duty of public servants to protect privileged information.

The brokerage houses themselves have opposed releasing such names, claiming that they are obliged to keep information about clients secret.

Testifying before the committee, Masaki Tsuchida, director general of the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau, revealed that his ministry's investigation has found no evidence that trust banks have been involved in compensating major clients for investment losses as well.

Nobuhiko Matsuno, director general of the Finance Ministry's Securities Bureau, said at the same hearing that six second-tier securities houses have reported to the ministry that they compensated their major clients for a total of 35 billion yen in investment losses.

But Matsuno did not identify the names of such brokerage houses nor disclose the size of compensation on a company-by-company basis.

The head of the Justice Ministry's Criminal Bureau also revealed that prosecutors have launched a probe into the former president of Nomura Securities Co. on allegations that Nomura was involved in stock price manipulation over Tokyu Corp.

Kazutomi Ijima said the investigation follows two cases of charges filed against former Nomura Securities president Yoshihisa Tabuchi for Nomura's alleged involvement in stock price manipulation.

Tabuchi resigned from his post earlier this month to take responsibility for Nomura's involvement in compensation of favored clients for investment losses and the arrangement of a loan to ex- head of the Inagawa-Kai underworld crime syndicate, Susumu Ishii.

The price of Tokyu stocks surged on the Tokyo Stock Exchange [TSE] from October to December 1989, causing speculation that the price surge may have been manipulated by Nomura for Ishii.

A Nomura affiliate company earlier bought golf club memberships from a company controlled by Ishii.

Nomura reportedly recommended the Tokyu stock to its customers in its weekly report before the price shot up. But investigations by the Finance Ministry and the TSE found no evidence of such price manipulation.

Call for Nomura Chairman Rejected

OW2507135791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto Thursday rejected calls by opposition parties to summon the former chairman of Nomura Securities Co., Setsuya Tabuchi, to testify before the Diet about the securities scandal.

Hashimoto repeated the rejection during the day's House of Representatives Finance Committee session, convened amid mounting public calls for the Diet to investigate the compensation of clients by brokerage houses for stock losses and links between the securities industry and a gangster organization.

Social Democratic Party committee member Nobutaka Tsutsui blasted the ruling Liberal Democratic Party for blocking efforts to summon Tabuchi, accusing it of attempting to hush up the truth about the scandal.

"It is necessary to call in Tabuchi to have him testify before the Diet in order to uncover the true details of the securities scandal," said Tsutsui.

"I suspect some politicians are involved in the financial scandal by themselves or through their secretaries," he said.

Tabuchi, who stepped down as Nomura chairman on Monday, earlier told reporters he is "ready to speak the whole truth" about what he knows of the scandal.

Bank Executives Accused of Issuing False Receipts

OW2507110091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0703 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Three Fuji Bank branch executives issued fake deposit receipts so clients could use the nonexistent deposits as collateral to borrow 260 billion yen from a finance company, industry sources said Thursday.

About 20 billion yen of the 260 billion yen will probably be irretrievable, they said.

Fuji, one of Japan's top commercial banks, has dismissed the branch officials for their misconduct and filed complaints with police accusing them of breach of trust and forging private documents, the sources said.

The bank clients—23 companies in seven different business groups—are believed to have used the money for real estate transactions, they said.

The bank has refused to name the clients.

Fuji dismissed Minoru Nakamura, 38, a former section chief at the bank's Akasaka Branch, Hideo Sato, 39, a former deputy section chief at the same branch, and Kazuaki Kanno, 36, a former deputy head of the bank's Hibiya Branch.

The bank said the three executives prepared the phony deposit receipts so their clients, who had originally applied for loans from Fuji, would not have to bear with the delays involved in the bank's screening process.

The branch officials issued 51 fake deposit receipts between September 1989 and this May, the sources said.

The finance company, which Fuji refused to name, discovered that the certificates were forged when it looked into the receipts between April and June this year.

After the company discovered the fraud, Fuji made the clients put up real estate and other assets as collateral.

But because the clients did not have enough assets to cover all the loans, Fuji repaid the finance firm and assumed some 27.1 billion yen in matured loans.

Fuji has reported this 27.1 billion yen to police as the amount of damage it has incurred in the case.

Fuji Bank's Kanda-Higashi Branch also prepared fraudulent deposit slips so their clients could get loans, the sources said, but the bank said it will not file a complaint against anyone at that branch because no damage was incurred.

A senior bank official said the relationship between the branch officials and their clients was unclear.

But the bank officials accompanied their clients to the finance company, according to the sources. And some industry sources said the bankers may have arranged the loans because their clients were otherwise unable to raise funds because of the drop in real estate prices.

Bank Governor Remarks

OW2507145391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1409 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno on Thursday called on the scandal-struck Fuji Bank to strengthen controls against possible wrongdoing by rogue employees.

The central bank chief made the request when he met the bank's president, Toru Hashimoto, who apologized for fraudulent deals involving three employees.

The employees are alleged to have issued fake certificates of deposit with a face value of 260 billion yen so clients could use them as collateral to borrow from finance companies.

The massive fraud is the latest in a series of scandals engulfing Japanese financial and business circles, including the proliferating stock scandal over major brokerages' payouts to favored clients.

Meanwhile, BOJ sources said the central bank will put emphasis on finding out whether Fuji's checking system and employee administration work well, when it conducts regular scrutiny on the bank.

The BOJ believes the bank's checking system may be flawed because its in-house surveillance failed to uncover the fraud, according to the sources.

Report Issued on Discount Rate Cut, Growth

OW2507134391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1151 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Thanks to the recent cut in the official discount rate, Japan's money supply growth will catch up with the pace of the economic expansion in the July-September quarter, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) reported Thursday.

In a quarterly report on the Japanese economy and finance, the central bank predicted that broadly defined money supply will grow at a flat tempo in the current quarter, from a 3.7 percent expansion in the preceding quarter.

But the figure, gauged on a seasonally adjusted quarter-to- quarter basis, translates into a more than 6 percent growth, much faster than the minus 1.0 percent expansion in the January-March quarter and the 3.8 percent growth in the April-June quarter.

A BOJ official said the reading underscores that money supply growth is regaining momentum to "match the tempo of the Japanese economic expansion."

The BOJ's more than two years of tight grip on credit has made a lasting dent in growth in the broadly defined money supply—M2 plus certificates of deposit (CDs).

After peaking at 13.2 percent in April and May 1990, the monetary growth had been steadily declining to a record low of 3.6 percent in May this year, before picking up in June for the first year-on-year upswing in nine months.

The report also said companies will continue to spend on plants and equipment in the months to come, as the chronic labor shortage makes it difficult for them to survive without continued automation.

Pessimists expect the Tokyo stock market, flagging due to the mushrooming stock scandal, will put the dampers on capital spending, one of the driving forces behind the current economic boom, which is set to outdo the record "izanagi" expansion in the late 1960s.

Consumer spending, another locomotive, will stay healthy, as increasing wages and stabilizing prices continue to create money for people to spend.

As a result, the Japanese economy, though gradually losing steam, will "grow on a firm footing over the second half of 1991," the report concluded.

Safety Treaty Concluded on Nuclear Complex

OW2507045191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0403 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Aomori, July 25 KYODO—The Aomori Prefectural Government, the village of Rokkasho, and a nuclear-industry company Thursday concluded a safety agreement on an uranium enrichment plant in Rokkasho.

Concluding the agreement, which stipulates basic rules to assure area residents of the safety of the facility's operations, paves the way to opening the nation's first full-scale commercial uranium enrichment facility by next March.

The agreement, composed of 22 articles, states that on-the-spot inspections of the plant can be done whenever Aomori Prefecture or village officials deem it necessary.

It also says that to ensure the safety of the residents and to preserve the environment, the prefecture and the village can call on the Japan Nuclear Fuel Industry Co. to stop operations at the plant.

The treaty, however, says that based on the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, details of the centrifugal machine, a major machine used to enrich uranium, will not be disclosed to the residents if an accident occurs.

Prefectural government officials said the agreement is not just a gentlemen's agreement and that it is a legally effective contract.

They are planning use the agreement as a model for later pacts when the company begins operating a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant and a low-level radioactive waste storing center also in Rokkasho.

Mongolia

DPRK Cultural Cooperation Agreement Signed

SK2207064391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0556 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—A 1991-1992 plan on cultural cooperation between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Mongolian People's Republic was signed in Ulaanbatar on July 17.

It was signed by O Mun-han, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, and Kh. Bekhbat, vice-minister of foreign relations of Mongolia.

A 1991-1992 plan on cooperation between the DPRK-Mongolia Friendship Association and the Mongolia-DPRK Friendship Association was signed on the same day.

Vice President Speaks at Victims' Commemoration

OW1507072991 Ulaanbaatar Radio Ulaanbaatar in English 1445 GMT 11 July 91

[Text] Another ceremony of laying of the foundation stone of a monument to the victims of repressions in different periods of the [words indistinct] (?factionalism), ideological diversion, belonging to antiparty groupings and so on and so forth, took place in Ulaanbataar. Vice President of Mongolia Gonchigdorj made a speech at the ceremony. The ceremony, attended by veterans of the revolution, relatives and friends of the (?repression victims) was accompanied by special religious rites.

MONGOL MESSENGER Publishes 1st Issue

OW1907062591 Ulaanbaatar Radio Ulaanbaatar in English 0910 GMT 15 Jul 91

[Text] The first edition of the first and only English weekly newspaper entitled THE MONGOL MESSENGER has been published in Mongolia. The editorial column of this edition signed by the weekly's editor in chief, (Choynoryn Gurrandorj), says that [words indistinct] stories of the weekly will reflect the fundamentally new change in Mongolia's (?reforms) [words indistinct] nation. Readers will be informed how people are [words indistinct] ideological forces and are overcoming the diktat of the (?party's) [words indistinct] thinking. The weekly [passage indistinct].

North Korea

Consolatory Delegation Arrives in Panmunjom

SK2507015391 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] A consolatory delegation of youths and students, who left Pyongyang yesterday to pay a consolatory visit to those who have fought for reunification, including student Yim Su-kyong and Reverend Mun Ik-hwan, arrived in Panmunjom .

Our consolatory delegation of youths and students, headed by Choe Hyon-tok, chairman of the Korean Student Committee, is composed of 20 members. Ten reporters will accompany the consolatory delegation. Included in the consolatory delegation are Kye Pong-il, student of Kim Il-song University, who participated in the International Peaceful Grand March; Yun Kwang-taek, former student of Kim Hyong-chik University of Education; Kang Chi-yong, former student of Kim Chaek University of Technology; Yi Kyong-tok, student of Korean University of Physical University; and Pan Un-suk, student of Pyongyang University of Medicine.

Included also in the consolatory delegation are children: O Un- Pyol, 10, and Kim Chol-hak, six, who pleased student Yim Su-kyong by painting a picture depicting the entire fellow countrymen's unanimous ardent aspiration for reunification; Kim Il-sin, nine, whom student Yim Su-kyong asked to become a poet for a reunified country; Kim Chong-ui, 12, who asked Rev. Mun Ik-hwan to deliver a letter to her grandfather in the South and promised Reverend Mun Ik-hwan to attend the 13th World Festival of Youths and Students; and Yi Il-yong, nine.

Asked to deliver comforting gifts and letters to student Yim Su-kyong and Reverend Mun Ik-hwan by youths and students and citizens in Kaesong City this morning, the consolatory delegation of youths and students arrived here with the comforting gifts and letters.

Waits for South's 'Guides'

SK2507020991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0024 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] A consolatory delegation of youths and students to pay a consolatory visit to those who have fought for reunification, including student Yim Su-kyong and Reverend Mun Ik-hwan, went to the forward site of Panmungak at 1000 this morning, but the South side's guides did not appear. Thus, the consolatory delegation is waiting for their appearance in Panmungak.

When our consolatory delegation of youths and students arrived in Panmunjom at 0900, our side's Panmunjom liaison delegate to the North-South Red Cross talks notified the South counterpart of the arrival of our consolatory delegation of youths and students and asked him to see whether or not the South's guides arrived. The South side's liaison delegate, however, avoided replying to this.

Our consolatory delegation of youths and students, however, is now waiting in Panmungak until it receives a positive response from the South Korean authorities.

Supported by Red Cross Message

SK2507041191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0300 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Telephone message sent by Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, to Kim Sang-hyop, president of the South Korean Red Cross—read by announcer]

[Text] I, at the request of the Korean Committee of Struggle for the Release of Yim Su-kyong and of the Measure Committee for the Rescue of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, send to your side the following message:

At this moment, a 20-member consolatory delegation of youths and students led by Choe Hyon-tok, chairman of the Korean Student Committee, is waiting in Panmunjom to pay a consolatory visit to the patriotic figures who have fought for reunification, including student Yim Su-kyong and Rev. Mun Ik-hwan.

Notwithstanding this, because the South side firmly locks the door to the South side in Panmunjom, the consolatory delegation of youths and students still cannot go into South Korea.

I notify your side that our side's consolatory delegation will wait at the boundary line in Panmunjom for your side to open the door to the South side until this afternoon.

Therefore, I once again urge your side to direct your side's organ concerned to immediately open the door to the South side in Panmunjom as soon as possible.

In addition, I urge your side to guarantee all accommodations and conditions, including personal security, so that our consolatory delegation of youths and students may meet patriotic figures who have been suffering behind bars, including student Yim Su-kyong who has been imprisoned at Chongju women's prison, and their family members as soon as possible.

I hope your side will take a positive measure.

Continues To Await Entry Permission

SK2507054091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0520 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Panmunjom July 25 (KCNA)—The consolatory team of school youth and children which arrived at Panmunjom to pay a visit to woman student Yim Su-kyong, the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and other reunification champions who are suffering behind bars due to the South Korean authorities' unjustifiable acts are barred from going over to the South side's area as of 12:00.

They were standing on the front stairs of Panmun pavilion for more than 20 minutes from 10:00, exposed to rain, in full readiness to cross the Military Demarcation Line to South Korea.

They are waiting on here still now, three hours since their arrival in Panmunjom, with the expectation that the authorities of the South side would not block their way to the South as they had recently proposed to hold joint celebrations of the Liberation Day" [no beginning quotation mark as received] and "grand reunification march."

Fifth Republic Leaders 'Strutting' in South

SK2207054691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 22 Jul 91

["'Fifth Republic' Revives and Squirms"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—Chon Tu-hwan, the dictator of the "Fifth Republic," recently made a public appearance and sent an envelope bulging with bank notes to the "foundation for the promotion of science and technology," blabbing that he wanted to "join the "movement" related to it, according to a report. And over fifty ultra-rightist gangsters including Chang Se-tong, Kwon Chong-tal, Kwon Ik-hyon, Ho Mun-to, Ho Hwa-pyong and Chon Kyong-wan, who played the leading part under the "Fifth Republic" dictatorship, launched into vehement activities in all parts of South Korea to run in the "National Assembly elections" scheduled next year.

And Chong Ho-yong, a military gangster who plunged Kwangju into a sea of blood, strongly expressed his will to return to South Korea from the United States early next year and take part in politics.

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

It is very ill-boding development that the forces of the "Fifth Republic" dictatorship which had earned themselves notoriety for their sword-brandishing and corrupt rule, are craning their necks which have been ducked under the "security-oriented" rule of the "Sixth Republic" and began strutting about, intending to stage a comeback to the political world.

The dictatorial rule has continued in South Korea. But, never before have the ousted dictatorial forces stretched their crooked hands to the political circles again so massively as today.

This vividly shows that the old and new dictatorial forces are tightly glued together in South Korea and No Tae-u seeks to lead South Korea to a more fascistised land of darkness and terror in league with the forces of "Fifth Republic" dictatorship which once resorted to brutal violence.

The tieup between No Tae-u and Chon Tu-hwan is always a product of the backstage manipulation of the United States and an offspring of the desperate attempt of the present group in power to bridge over the crisis of its rule.

CPRF Criticizes South on Pannational Rally

SK2307045791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0416 GMT 23 Jul 91

["CPRF Rejects Proposal for 'Grand Unification March' and Vows To Successfully Hold '91 PNR (Pan-National Rally)"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) issued a statement today branding the "proposal for grand unification march" of the South Korean authorities as a false script to foil the Seoul Pan-National Rally (PNR) and the grand reunification festival of students and solemnly vowing to successfully hold the prepared feast for reunification.

The South Korean authorities, ignoring our fair proposal for holding the '91 PNR as a joint festival of the nation, sent a telephone message to our side on July 20 in the name of the chairman of the "National Unification Council" which has nothing to do with the Seoul PNR, proposing to hold a preparatory meeting at Panmunjom on July 26 to discuss the matter of "holding a grand unification march." Here they totally excluded the delegates of the preparatory committee for the formation of the South side's Headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon), the host and sponsor of the August 15 PNR, and the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop).

The statement bitterly denounces this sinister act of the South Korean authorities as an anti-reunification, antinational act aimed at blocking the independent contact and travel between the North and the South, saying it is obvious that their act is not a mere mistake resulting from lack of understanding toward our proposal but a deliberate obstructive move emanating from a sinister intention to make abortive the August 15 PNR and the grand reunification festival of students which attract the attention of the entire fellow countrymen.

The South Korean rulers obtrusively attempt to substitute the Seoul PNR and the grand reunification festival of students with a "grand unification march" sponsored by the authorities. This reminds one of government officials of the old days suddenly breaking into the feast of common people and turning the feast table upside down, the statement notes, and continues:

No matter what hurdles the South Korean rulers may lay, the '91 PNR will be held excellently thanks to the efforts of the patriotic pro-reunification forces of the North, the South and overseas and the grand reunification festival of students will also open with a grand ceremony, along with the PNR.

In order to successfully hold the '91 PNR and the grand reunification festival of students which will be recorded as another event in the history of the reunification movement of our nation, the CPRF solemnly states that:

The South Korean authorities must frankly admit that the so-called "proposal for grand unification march" is a false one to foil the Seoul PNR and the grand reunification festival of students, must immediately stop all their anti-reunification criminal acts blocking the reunification festivities of the nation and provide conditions for the already prepared reunification feast to be held successfully.

At the same time, they must unconditionally release all those related to Pomminnyon in South Korea and the members of Chondaehyop who are serving prison terms as victims of the fascist "security-oriented rule" and must abolish the anti-reunification "National Security Law" and stop the fascist suppression of the pro-reunification democratic forces.

We make it clear once again that if the South Korean authorities, though belatedly, apologise for their anti-reunification criminal acts and manifest their willingness to cooperate in the '91 PNR and the grand reunification festival of students drawing great expectation of the entire Koreans in the North, the South and overseas, we will invite them to the reunification festivities of the nation as guests of honour.

We will continue to watch the attitude of the South Korean authorities toward the PNR and the grand reunification festival of students.

Meeting on 45th Anniversary of DFRF Founding

SK2207113791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1036 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—A meeting was held today in Pyongyang to mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland [DFRF].

Present were Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president, Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, and Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party.

Director of the Secretariat of the DFRF Central Committee Yu Ho-chun made a report at the meeting.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song formed the committee of the Democratic National United Front of North Korea at the Conference of Democratic Political

Parties and Public Organisations of North Korea on July 22, 1946 and the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland in June 1949, grouping patriotic and progressive political parties, public organisations and people of all strata in North and South Korea who love the country and the nation and aspire after reunification in conformity with the developing situation, he said.

He referred to the achievements made by the DFRF in realising the unity of all parties, groups and popular masses and organising and mobilizing them on the road of building a new society whose masters are people in liberated Korea and achieving the reunification of the divided country, upholding the chuche-based line of building the country put forward by the great leader in the past 45 years after its foundation.

The DFRF is carrying on the vigorous struggle to materialise the five-point policy of national reunification expounded by the great leader in conformity with the demand and desire of the whole nation for realising reunification in the 1990s, Yu Ho-chun pointed out, and went on:

The DFRF is now faced with an important task to organise and mobilize all political parties, public organisations and people of different strata in the North, the South and overseas in the nation-wide struggle to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, the cherished desire of the nation.

An important task in the struggle for national reunification is to remove those forces obstructive to reunification. The U.S. troops and nuclear weapons, the root cause of a nuclear war in the Korean peninsula and the rest of Asia, should be withdrawn and the peninsula turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

The United States must respond to the call for signing a peace agreement between the DPRK and the U.S. at an early date, withdraw its aggression forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea, and the South Korean authorities must abolish anti-reunification evil laws including the "national security law" and unconditionally and promptly release unwarrantably imprisoned patriotic students and democratic figures, the reporter said.

He stressed: We will in the future, too, make every possible effort to force the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea and establish national sovereignty throughout the country.

The South Korean authorities must affirmatively respond to our proposal for convening a political consultative conference for national reunification on the 15th of August this year and refrain from obstructing our dialogue partners in South Korea from participating in the conference.

It is an important guarantee for national reunification to form a nationwide united front on the principle of great national unity, the reporter said, adding:

All the political parties, organisations and personages of all strata in the North, the South and overseas that truly want the reunification of the country should unify their principles and conduct, help and cooperate with each other and wage a grand powerful mass movement on the common front for national unity and national reunification.

Notably, the politicians in the North and the South who bear heavy responsibility for the destiny of the nation and the prospect of the country should hold contact and dialogue and deepen confidence among them, he stated.

He called for a vigorous nationwide struggle to make a success, for the present, of the "second pan-national rally for peace and reunification of the homeland" decided at the meeting for the preparation of the second pan-national rally held in Berlin some time ago.

The South Korean authorities must clearly realise that however loudly they may talk about "grand reunification march", while keeping behind bars officials of the pan-Korean alliance for national reunification (Pomminnyon) and the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) of the South side, the parties directly concerned with the August 15 pan-national reunification festival, it will go down with no one, and unconditionally ensure the Seoul pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of students to be sponsored by Pomminnyon, a pan-national united body of Korean people in the North, the South and overseas, and by Chondaehyop of South Korea, stressed the reporter.

DFRF Central Committee Emergency Meeting Held

SK2507121291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—An emergency enlarged meeting of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland [DFRF] was held in Pyongyang today.

Present there were Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, and others.

The meeting discussed "Present Situation of South Korea and urgent measures."

Yu Ho-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, delivered a report.

Recalling that the No Tae-u ruling group is these days getting more vicious in its fascist suppression of patriotic democratic forces including the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), the Coalition for National Democratic Movement (Chonminnyon) and the National Council of Trade Unions (Chonnohyop), he said that it seeks in this the criminal purpose to stifle the pro-reunification patriotic movement which is growing fast in South Korea, foil the '91 pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of students expected to open soon and, furthermore, freely commit manoeuvrings for long-term office and permanent division.

This is graphically proved by the fact that the South Korean authorities "proposed" to jointly celebrate August 15 and hold a "cross-the-country grand march" and a "national forum on the reunification question" as "civilian functions" between the North and the South under the sponsorship of the authorities, the reporter said, and continued:

The fascist "security-oriented rule" and anti-reunification moves of the South Korean rulers are manipulated by the U.S. imperialists behind the scene.

The situation obtaining in South Korea today makes it urgent to take immediate measures to oppose the fascist "security-oriented rule" and the anti-reunification moves of the No Tae-u authorities and realise the August 15 Pan-National Grand Reunification Festival.

The South Korean people, youth and students should unyieldingly fight to frustrate the fascist "security-oriented rule" and win human rights and democracy and continue their undaunted struggle to successfully hold the '91 pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of students.

We will always extend invariable support and encouragement to the righteous patriotic struggle of South Korean people and students against fascism and divisive moves of the rulers and for reunification and join efforts with them in the struggle to make the August 15 Pan-National Grand Reunification Festival a success at whatever cost.

If the South Korean authorities persistently obstruct the grand August 15 Pan-National Reunification Festival, not releasing the visitors to the North but suppressing democratic organizations and pro-reunification patriots, dialogues with them including the resumption of the North-South high-level talks now on the order of the day should be reconsidered.

What discussion for reunification can be held with the South Korean authorities who have taken into custody patriots including the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and coed Yim Su-kyong who visited Pyongyang at the risk of their lives and had a debate on the reunification issue, and are blocking the pan-national rally, a gathering for nationwide dialogues for reunification?

Considering that nothing can be expected from a dialogue with the South Korean authorities, if they do not turn to the position for the nation and reunification, renouncing their anti-national, anti-reunification stand, we will watch their future activities.

A statement of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and a letter to the bereaved families of those who fell in the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification in South Korea were adopted at the meeting.

Statement on South Issued

SK2507105791 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 25 Jul 91

['Statement' of the Central Committee of Democratic Front for Reunification of the Fatherland (DFRF) adopted at its Expanded Emergency Meeting held in Pyongyang on 25 July—read by unidentified person]

[Text] The DFRF [Democratic Front for Reunification of the Fatherland] Central Committee convened an expanded emergency meeting in connection with the present fascist security-oriented political situation in South Korea and discussed the topic "On the Present Situation of South Korea and Present Urgent Measures."

Based on this discussion, we release the statement as follows:

Recently, an unprecedented fascist repressive wholesale roundup is being stepped up throughout South Korea and the people's democratic freedom and human rights have been comprehensively trampled under foot and obliterated. The just and patriotic reunification movement is cruelly oppressed.

The No Tae-u group temporarily tided over its crisis by repressing the May struggle of the youth, students and people with guns and bayonets and by creating a fascist murderous political situation. Thus, it more undisguisedly revealed its true nature as military fascists and separatists, and is frantically running amok with unprecedented oppression of democratic reunification forces.

The workers' legal struggle for wage increase has been subject to suppression, and key figures of labor unions were arrested everywhere. The workers, who were staging a strike, were arraigned en masse, youth and students who called for democracy and politicians and religionists who rose in the reunification movement and intellectuals who study on progressive ideologies have been taken into prison every day.

The war against crime raved about by the No Tae-u group is, in fact, a declaration of war against democracy and reunification. The spearhead of its repression is directed at patriotic and democratic reunification forces.

With the purpose of destroying independent democratic organizations, including the National Democratic Alliance of Korea [Chonminnyon], the National Council of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop], and National Federation of Teachers Union [Chongyojo], the fascist clique is searching the key members of these organizations and frantically kicked off a wholesale roundup of these figures.

Eight members of these organizations, including student Kim Chong-sok, chairman of Chondaehyop, were arrested and imprisoned one morning, a number of people, including Kang Ki-hun, head of administration of Chonminnyon, So Chun-sik, chairman of Chonminnyon's Human Rights Committee, Yi Ki-hyong and Han Chun-pok, members of the Preparatory Committee for forming the South side's Headquarters of Pannational Alliance for National Reunification [Pomminnyon], and many other figures of democratic organizations were taken into prison.

Seventy year-old Rev. Mun Ik-hwan was again imprisoned, members of the conference for pannational measures who were under medical treatment were also arrested, and even fathers of murdered students Kang Kyong-tae and Pak Chong-chol were imprisoned. This brutal repressive act shows how reckless the No Tae-u group's antihuman rights and antidemocratic fascist frenzy is and how vicious its political repression of patriotic reunification movement is.

After reducing South Korea to a wasteland of democracy, the No Tae-u group put forward the so-called great reunification march in an attempt to conceal its antidemocratic and antireunification crime and to ridicule the people's aspiration to the reunification. Thus, it is attempting to deceive public opinion.

However, the deceitful nature of the so-called great reunification march has been fully exposed by the fact that the No Tae-u group, regarding the 91 pannational rally, which was already scheduled to be held in Seoul, and the great reunification festival of youth and students as an illegal event, expelled the hosting organizations and arrested and imprisoned the members of these organizations.

Last year, the No Tae-u group hindered the Panmunjom pannational rally by staging a drama called the 15 August great national exchange. Today it is again attempting to spoil the reunification festival, which has been arranged by other people, with such an outdated trick. Everyone knows this very clearly.

The DFRF Central Committee, recognizing the vicious repressive fascist offensive and cunning separatist maneuvers perpetrated by the No Tae-u group as a grave challenge to the South Korean people's just struggle for independence, democracy and reunification, sternly denounces them in the name of all the Korean people.

Today the number of political prisoners who are imprisoned in South Korean prisons on the charges of violating the National Security Law—an anticommunist and antireunification evil law—reaches several thousand which is three times more than that of those imprisoned during the era of fascist dictatorship of the Fifth Republic.

The dark public security-oriented rule perpetrated by the No Tae-u clique under the instigation of the United States is creating a graver human rights situation in South Korea than that during the Fifth Republic military dictatorship. In South Korea, the nightmarish yusin system of the seventies has now been revived, suffocating everything patriotic and progressive. If this situation is allowed to go on, the South Korean people will suffer from a tragedy greater than the present one, and an even graver obstacle will be laid in the future of our pannational reunification movement.

No Tae-u clique's savage public security-oriented rule should be liquidated unconditionally in South Korea. The South Korean ruling bunch should know that anticommunism and violence are not omnipotent and that they cannot save them from their doomed fate. They should also clearly know that the signboards of democracy and reunification alone cannot deceive the South Korean people and that they cannot rescue them from the crisis of destruction.

If the South Korean ruling bunch wish to find a way out of it, though belatedly, they should show by action the volition for democracy and reunification. Above all, they should immediately release the political prisoners, including Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, coed Yim Su-kyong, and others who visited the North, and the patriotic figures who are detained for meeting and discussing the issue of reunification, and stop the suppression on the democratic organizations and their members who call for independence, democracy, and reunification. They should abolish the antidemocratic and antinational National Security Law which is the instrument of political suppression and the political wall of division. The South Korean authorities should stop the foolish maneuvers for blocking the 91 pannational meeting and the students' grand reunification festival, and render all the necessary assistance and cooperation for the successful holding of this grand national event.

North-South dialogue is a dialogue for reunification, and dialogue with those who do not want reunification is useless. If the South Korean authorities continue to challenge the democracy and reunification, despite our true advice, and obstruct the grand pannational reunification festival, which the entire nation is waiting for with great expectation, their splittist maneuvers will be far from compatible with reunification dialogue. From this standpoint, if the South Korean authorities do not show any change in their present antinational and antireunification position but continuously lead the South Korean situation to a grave phase, we maintain that the North-South high level talks with the fascist dictators and splittists should naturally be reconsidered [ungdang koryo toeoya handago chujanghanda].

The South Korean authorities should prudently treat this just assertion of ours which reflects the will and yearning of the entire nation and put an end to the fascist public security-oriented rule.

Independence, democracy, and reunification are not given like someone's free gift. As the South Korean people have always been victorious in the struggle against Syngman Rhee's fascist dictatorship, the struggle against Pak Chong-hui's yusin system, and in the confrontation with Chon Tu-hwan's Fifth Republic dictatorship. The students and people from all walks of life of South Korea should resolutely crush the public security-oriented rule with their own struggle, win the democratic rights, such as the freedom of ideology and the freedom of reunification discussion, and the right to exist, destroy the walls of division, both visible and invisible, built up by the military fascist clique, and daringly open the door to reunification.

It is the foremost matter of interest of all the fellow countrymen in the North, South, and overseas to make succeed as a great national festival the '91 pannational meeting and the students' grand reunification festival, which are to be held in Seoul on the occasion of 15 August liberation day. The South Korean people should crush the splittists' cunning obstructive maneuvers at every step and make this great national event succeed by all means to open a new turning point in the reunification movement.

All the political parties, organizations, and people in the northern half of the Republic should always actively support and encourage the South Korean people who struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification, and, uniting the strength of the North, the South, and from overseas, will struggle to the end to make the '91 pannational meeting and the students' grand reunification festival succeed.

25 July 1991, Pyongyang.

SKNDF Issues White Paper on Nuclear War

SK2507055491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 25 Jul 91

["Danger of Nuclear War in Korean Peninsula and Truth Behind U.S. Campaign of "Nuclear Inspection" Exposed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) on July 19 issued a white paper exposing the danger of a nuclear war in the Korean peninsula and the truth behind the U.S. fuss of "nuclear inspection", radio Voice of National Salvation" reported from Seoul.

According to the white paper, the number and explosive power of the nuclear arms in South Korea the shipment of which was begun by the United States in the middle of the 1950s are really shocking.

The minutes No. 111 of the 125th regular session of the South Korean "National Assembly" held in 1985 revealed that the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea totalled 1,720.

The materials made public so far and the general analysis of reliable military information say that the United States has brought to South Korea 504 nuclear bombs, 271 nuclear shells, 293 nuclear heads for missiles, 60-odd neutron bombs, 150 nuclear mines and 500 nuclear backpacks. So these figures surpass by far those given in the minutes of South Korean National Assembly.

The explosive power of the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea is 1,750 times the atom bomb dropped in Hiroshima, Japan. Among them are neutron bombs called a "devilish weapon of the 20th century" and various kinds of tactical nuclear arms.

Each of the South Koreans is literally standing on a five-ton timebomb which may explode any moment.

These monsters of disaster are now piled up in 19 nuclear bases across South Korea, free from any supervision and control.

What is worse, the United States is plotting to newly construct or expand nuclear bases in Mt. Songak and Mosulpo in Cheju Island, Sosan County in South Chungchong Province, Chungwon County in North Chungchong Province and Suwon in Kyonggi Province and make Pusan, Chinhae and Mokpo call ports for the U.S. 7th fleet, with a view to shipping to South Korea those nuclear weapons rejected by European and Asia-Pacific nations including the Philippines.

The nuclear bases of the U.S. forces in South Korea are not for deterrence of war but for aggressive offensive and the rulers in Washington are getting all the more undisguised in clamouring about the use of nuclear arms.

In April 1975 U.S. Defence Secretary Schlesinger prattled that if a w.. broke out in the Korean peninsula the United States would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons and attack the heart of the enemy.

The U.S. violent remarks about the use of nukes are not a mere threat and blackmail but have been put into practice through nuclear war exercises from long ago.

The "Team Spirit" South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise is an overall and preliminary nuclear war drill for pre-emptive strike at the North.

The United States has already completed preparations for a nuclear attack on North Korea.

In the Kunsan Air Base which is a unique U.S. strategic nuclear base in East Asia, emergency nuclear fighter planes have been on the round-the-clock alert for 25 years to take off within 15 minutes with nuclear bombs.

After the Gulf war the U.S. moves for nuclear war on the Korean peninsula have got more undisguised.

The "120-day war plan" made public in April 1991 is a medium- period war plan and a terrible nuclear war scenario of the Pentagon which defines the Korean peninsula as the most dangerous war region in the world and presupposes mobilization of huge military forces including nuclear weapons.

Turning to the the U.S. campaign of "nuclear inspection" against the North, a non-nuclear state, the white paper says:

The U.S. demand for nuclear inspection is a high-handed domineering logic of a big power seeking a war in Korea, not peace. Moreover, Washington's unreasonable demands that North Korea should open its nuclear facilities to international inspection while keeping nuclear arms in South Korea are a grave challenge to North Korea.

The U.S. assertion that North Korea produces nuclear weapons is groundless

North Korea stated once and again that it had neither intention nor ability to produce nukes.

Washington's allegation that North Korea develops nuclear weapons is refuted by Americans themselves.

Former U.S. Rear Admiral Gene Larocque said in an interview in December 1990, "According to my extensive inspection of industrial facilities in South and North Korea, I don't think North Korea is able to produce nuclear weapons, although it has the finest subway in the world.

If someone says North Korea will have its own nukes soon, he certainly intends to terrify Japanese and South Korea for a certain purpose."

Kiyoshi Sakurai, a Japanese technical analyst, said the assertion that North Korea has nuclear reprocessing facilities is very uncertain.

Actually, Washington's pressure upon North Korea is crafty tactics to turn the table in its favor, having been pushed into a position of passive defence in North Korea-U.S. relation as Pyongyang repeated peace overtures, and justify the U.S. military and nuclear presence in South Korea.

For the sinister purpose, the United States consistently puts unjustifiable political pressure upon North Korea, violating its sovereignty.

Washington, asking Moscow to put pressure upon North Korea, puts its nose into the DPRK-Japan talks for the normalisation of diplomatic relations, the internal affairs of the two countries.

It even frames a plot to take political and economic sanctions against North Korea by abusing the name of the United Nations.

Our people's anti-U.S., anti-nuke movement has reached a serious stage. People even commit suicide and it spreads as a mass movement.

Amid fierce struggles, the "national joint measure committee against U.S. bases," the "alliance of anti-pollution movement" and other anti-nuclear, movement organizations were formed. It further activated anti-nuke peace movements all over South Korea.

Our people must not fall a victim to nuclear war imposed by the United States.

All nuclear weapons in South Korea must be opened to the public.

If the United States continues to conceal nuclear weapons in South Korea directly linked with life and death of the Korean nation, it will be held responsible for all consequences arising therefrom.

The white paper stresses:

It is a brigandish logic contrary to the principle of equity that the United States, while threatening others with more than 1,700 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea, presses North Korea to accept unilateral nuclear inspection.

There should be simultaneous nuclear inspection of South and North Korea, not a unilateral "nuclear inspection" of North.

The United States should immediately and unconditionally accept simultaneous nuclear inspection of South and North Korea as demanded by the Koreans and world peaceloving people.

As long as the danger of nuclear war remains on the Korean peninsula, peace and security cannot be secured in Asia and the world nor can mankind lead a stable life in peace.

The white paper earnestly asks the governments, political parties and social organisations of all countries and the international organisations to correctly understand the grave danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and wage an international anti-nuclear peace movement to force the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea.

Politburo Member Vows PRC Support for Policy

SK2207065491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0550 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—Wan Li, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said that the government of China always supports the policy of national reunification put forward by Comrade President Kim Il-song, when he met with a delegation of the Korea- China Friendship Association in Beijing on July 20.

The Chinese people will make maximum efforts for the promotion of the cause of Korean reunification, he stated.

Referring to the Sino-Korean friendly relations, he said that the friendship between the two countries with a long tradition is an unbreakable friendship sealed in blood and the further development of the friendly relations is very useful to socialist construction and to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

Japanese Groups Voice Support on Nuclear Stance

SK2307051291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Osaka council of Japan-Korea joint struggle headed by Yoshie Katsuma, chairwoman of the Osaka Prefectural headquarters of the Japan women's council, in a statement released in Pyongyang on July 20 strongly demanded that the United States pull its nuclear weapons and troops out of South Korea.

Expressing full support to the joint statement of the DPRK political parties and public organisations, the statement said that more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea pose a great threat not only to the DPRK but also to peace in Japan and Asia.

The purpose sought by the U.S. authorities in their recent outcry over the fiction of "nuclear weapons" possessed by the DPRK is to divert elsewhere the attention of the world from their nuclear arms deployed in South Korea, the statement noted, and continued:

If a nuclear inspection is to be made, the U.S. nuclear arms in South Korea should be made public and an international nuclear inspection be made simultaneously, not crying for a unilateral inspection of the north of Korea where there are no nuclear weapons.

It is strange that Japan, the first victim to the U.S. atomic bombs in the world, ignoring the danger of the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, is trying to force "nuclear inspection" upon the DPRK that has no nuclear arms.

Japan should pay attention to the removal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and play a positive role.

For a durable peace on the Korean peninsula a peace agreement between the DPRK and the United States should be concluded, a non-aggression declaration between the North and the South be adopted and the reunification of Korea be achieved in the mode of confederacy.

The normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations should be realised as early as possible in accordance with the basic spirit of the joint declaration of the three parties.

The Japanese Government should establish diplomatic relations with the DPRK on the basis of a reflection on the 36 year-long colonial domination of the Japanese imperialism over the Korean people and the policy hostile toward the DPRK for 46 years after the war and an adequate compensation for them.

Chongnyon Comments on Efforts for Reunification

SK2307103491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—Senior officials of organisations of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) released statements in support of the statement of Pak Song-chol, chairman of the North side's preparatory committee for the Political Consultative Conference for National Reunification, on the holding of a Political Consultative Conference for National Reunification for deciding upon the method of reunification common to the nation with the August 15 as an occasion and the statement of Yun Ki-pok, vice-chairman of the committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, clarifying the stand of the DPRK with regard to the August 15 joint reunification festivities of the nation, according to a KNS report from Tokyo.

Choe Il-su, chairman of the Federation of Korean Traders and industrialists in Japan, in his statement said that the matured pressing question in reunifying the divided country for the present is to hold at an early date the Political Consultative Conference for National Reunification in which the authorities and delegates of the political parties and organisations in the North and the South, the parties concerned, will participate in order to reach an agreement of the whole nation on the way of reunification.

If the South Korean authorities truly want reunification there is no reason for them to refuse to accept the demand of the North side for guaranteeing the holding of the Political Consultative Conference for National Reunification and '91 Seoul pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of students and they should do their best for their successful realisation, he stressed.

Yi Myong-kyon, chairman of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, in his statement demanded that the South Korean authorities unconditionally and immediately release the illegally arrested people related to the south side's "Pomminryon" and "Chondaehyop" and the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, coed Yim Su-kyong and other reunification messengers and guarantee the holding of the second August 15 PNR and the grand reunification festival of students without fail.

Pak Chong-hyon, chairman of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, in her statement said that if the South Korean authorities truly want reunification, they should immediately accept the proposal of the DPRK reflecting the general will of the nation.

Japanese, Friendship Groups Adopt Agreement

SK2507120091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1103 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—An agreement between the Korea-Japan Friendship Association and the Dietmen's league for the promotion of Japan-Korea friendship was adopted here today.

The agreement reads:

A national delegation of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea friendship paid a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from July 21 to 25, 1991, at the invitation of the Korea-Japan Friendship Association.

President Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, received the delegation and had a talk with it in a friendly atmosphere.

During the visit plenary sessions, subcommittee meetings and political talks were held between the delegation of the Korea-Japan Friendship Association and the national delegation of the Dietmen's League for the promotion of Japan-Korean friendship.

Widerange views were exchanged here on important questions arising in developing friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples and politicians of the DPRK and Japan and improving the DPRK-Japan relations.

Considering that to deepen understanding between the peoples and politicians of the two countries and conduct activities for the promotion of normalization of relations in a multi-faceted way is in full accord with the desire and interests of the two peoples who want their countries to become near and close since the three-party joint declaration on DPRK-Japan relations was adopted between the Workers' Party of Korea, the Liberal Democratic Party and Social Democratic Party of Japan and friendship between the peoples of the DPRK and Japan is growing stronger with every passing day, the sides agreed as follows:

1. The sides shall briskly exchange delegations and travels in order to deepen the bonds of friendship between the peoples of the DPRK and Japan and promote the improvement of relations between the two countries and, to this end, they shall strive to get the irregular direct flight service firmly fixed, the service which had already been used in travel between the two countries and develop it.

2. The sides shall make efforts for the establishment of sisterly relations between local cities and for ties and cooperation between them in order to develop friendly relations between the two countries.

3. The sides shall strive to settle the pending issues from the humanitarian point of view in the course of creating a good environment for the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations so as to deepen confidence and understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

4. The sides shall actively cooperate in developing their economic and trade relations through mutual exchange of economic missions on the principles of independence, equality and reciprocity.

5. The sides shall strive to develop interchange in science and technology, culture and art, sports and other domains in order to further develop the bonds of friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

6. The sides shall strive to further develop relations of cooperation between the two organizations in order to promote the exchange of delegations and make friendship close.

To implement the aforesaid points of agreement to the letter, the Korea-Japan Friendship Association and the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship shall convene meetings regularly and take necessary measures.

The agreement was signed by Kim Yang-kon, chairman of the Korea-Japan Friendship Association, and Hajime Ishii, chairman of the Dietmen's league for the promotion of Japan-Korea friendship.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Egypt's Mubarak

SK2207105091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1033 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the July 23 Revolution, the national holiday of the Egyptian people.

President Kim Il-song said the Korean people are glad to note that the Egyptian people have registered great achievements in their endeavours to consolidate social stability, develop the national economy and build a new life under the correct leadership of the president.

He wished the Egyptian president and people greater success in their future work to achieve the independent development and prosperity of the country, strengthen unity of the Arab countries and settle the Mideast problem in a peaceful way.

He expressed the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries will grow stronger and develop.

'True Democracy' of Nation's Socialism Stressed

SK2307052991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0441 GMT 23 Jul 91

["Our Socialist Democracy Is True Democracy for the People—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Monday came out with a signed article under the title "Our Socialist Democracy Is True Democracy for the People."

The article says:

Unique socialist democracy for the people is in force in our country.

It is the best democracy which provides all working people with equal rights and liberties as equal members of society and enables them to fully lead an independent and creative life, helping and leading one another forward.

Our socialist democracy strictly assumes the working-class nature.

The mouthpieces of imperialism advertise "pure democracy," that is, democracy without dictatorship, while viciously slandering socialist democracy. History has never seen any democracy without dictatorship.

Socialist democracy is not a super-class democracy which even provides freedom and rights to the elements hostile to socialism and the class enemies who infringe upon the interests of the people.

Socialist democracy gives democracy to the masses and exercises dictatorship over the class enemies who infringe on it.

Bourgeois democracy preached by the imperialists and the reactionaries provides democracy to a handful of exploiting classes but exercises harsh dictatorship over the masses including the working class.

The imperialists and the reactionaries are advertising the bourgeois parliamentary system and the bourgeois multiparty system as "democracy." However, they are no more than tools for bourgeois dictatorship. When they find even the formal parliamentary system or the multiparty system to be an obstacle to their reactionary rule, they throw it away overnight and resort to overt fascist rule. This has been clearly proved by historical facts.

The popular character of socialist democracy and the anti-popular character of bourgeois democracy are manifest in the matter of human rights.

In our society which regards man as most precious, human rights are firmly guaranteed by law and even the slightest practice infringing upon them is not tolerated.

The imperialists and the reactionaries, posing as "champions of human rights," are now vilifying socialism.

But it is the imperialist countries where social inequalities are most serious and the people are oppressed and their human rights are violated most harshly in the world.

Violent attacks on human rights are perpetrated in South Korea at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists. It is South Korea where visitors to the North are jailed for years for the mere reason that they visited Pyongyang for the reunification of the country and it is also South Korea where a bare-handed young student is beaten to death with an iron pipe in a peaceful demonstration.

It is thanks to the wise guidance of the party and the leader that socialist democracy is in full force in our country.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"It is only when the state gives centralized leadership under the guidance of the working-class party that real democracy can be guaranteed."

The matter of democracy in our country has long since been solved our own way on the basis of the chuche idea in conformity with the specific conditions of our country under the wise guidance of the party and the leader.

After the liberation of the country, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song resolutely smashed the moves to mechanically imitate bourgeois democracy or democracy of other countries and laid down the line of progressive democracy which is suitable to the will and ideological emotion of our people.

In enforcing our socialist democracy, our party regards the chuche idea as the firm guiding principle and enhances in every way the function and role of people's power bodies so that they may fully provide the people with an independent and creative life.

Our party is wisely leading the work of actively promoting the socialist economic and cultural construction and guiding the officials to apply the revolutionary method and popular style of work under the slogan "We serve the people!"

Our socialism in which politics for the people, true democracy, is enforced under the wise guidance of the party and the leader will emerge triumphant through any storm and stress, and bourgeois democracy infringing upon the interests of the people is bound to go awry.

'Advantages' of Nation's Socialism Praised

SK2507130491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 25 Jul 91

["Advantages of Our-style Socialism and Korean People's Life in Three Domains"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article titled "Advantages of Our-style Socialism and Korean People's Life in Three Domains".

The author of the article says:

In his several works including "Our Socialism for the People Will Not Perish" the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has expounded the life of the people in three domains on the basis of the chuche idea and profoundly elucidated the advantages of our socialism through the life in the three domains, political, economic and ideological and cultural.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has said:

"The advantages of our socialism find full expression in the aspects of political, economic, ideological and cultural lives."

The advantages of our socialism are vividly expressed in the political life of our people.

Our socialist society is a genuine democratic one which practically provides the people with true political freedom and right.

The superiority of socialist democracy to bourgeois democracy finds its clear expression in the fact that in the socialist society the state is responsible for and takes care of the life of all social members. In the capitalist society the bourgeois state does not care for the people at all whether they die of hunger or not.

An important advantage of our socialism lies in that it is wholly responsible for and takes care of the life of all people.

The advantages of our socialism can be seen in the economic life of our people.

In our country the public ownership of means of production prevails and on this basis the popular masses lead an independent and creative life as the true masters of economic life.

Our socialist system provides the people with an equal and affluent material life.

Our people are provided with all conditions for food, clothing and housing from the state, food price and house rents next to nothing. They do not know even the word of taxation.

Many popular policies of the party and the state including systems of free education and free medical service are enforced in our country, and they are steadily increasing with the creation of conditions.

The working people enjoy additional solicitude and benefits including social security.

Neither jobless man nor beggar can be seen in our country, and all the working people are bringing their creative labour into full bloom.

The material life in our society, where all social members lead an equally happy life, helping and pulling each other forward without worries about food, clothing and housing, forms a striking contrast to that in capitalist society where the "rich get richer and the poor poorer" and life is being deformed.

Our socialism has its advantages in the ideological and cultural life of our people, too.

All people study and the whole of society is being assimilated to intelligentsia.

In our country socialist national culture is being built for good cultural and emotional life of the people and the beautiful manners and customs and moral traits of our people are kept in full bloom in conformity with the socialist demands.

Progress of Streetcar Line Construction Reported

SK2507090591 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Under the great care of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party, the construction of streetcar lines has been accelerated in the city of Chongjin amid an atmosphere seething with the revolutionary spirit of the speed battle. Reporter Kim Tok-hwan from the Central Broadcasting station met with Comrades Ho Yun-song and Yi Pong-un, who are functionaries at the headquarters of the construction command for laying the lines for the streetcars in the city of Chongjin and reported:

[Begin recording] [Reporter Kim Tok-hwan] The great leader has given practical teachings on the operation of the streetcars to the city of Chongjin on many occasions. Hasn't he?

[Ho Yun-song] Yes.

[Kim] Therefore, the party members and the working people in the city of Chongjin are unanimously launching into the construction of the lines for streetcars in the city. I think that they will attain great success in the construction. Do you think so?

[Ho] Yes, you are right. Now, the party members and the working people in the city of Chongjin are unanimously launching into the construction of streetcar lines in order to complete it ahead of schedule without fail. As a result, the construction of streetcar lines has been rapidly accelerated even though it has been several days since the start of the construction project.

[Yi Pong-un] Yes, he is right. We are hastening the construction of the (Unhyon) streetcar lines according to many stages. Now, we are earnestly launching into the construction of the streetcar lines on the first-stage section between Namchongjin and Pongchon district. With the earnest advance of the first-stage construction of the streetcar lines, which are expected to total 4 km, we have rapidly completed the digging of some 34,000 cubic meters of earth and of replacing some 27,000 cubic meters of earth for a month. In addition, we have accelerated the laying of the mixture of gravel and sand on the lines. As a result, we have completed the work of laying the planned mixture of gravel and sand on some 28,800 cubic meters. And we are vigorously launching the work of laying out the small gravel in preparation for paving the road. I think that we will complete it within this month.

[Kim] In the construction of the streetcar lines in the city of Chongjin, the first-stage construction of the section between Namchongjin and Pongchon has a series of characteristics similar to the construction that should be carried out in other stages. Do you think so?

[Yi] Yes, you are right. The total length of the streetcar lines in the city of Chongjin amounts to some 32 km, but, in actuality, the streetcar lines will be laid out on the various sections by stage, including the second-stage section between (Nanam) and Chongjin, on the basis of the existing road. With a new and perfect pavement of the road, however, we will complete the work of laying out the streetcar lines on the first-stage section between Namchongjin and Pongchon.

[Ho] Yes, he is right. Under these situations, we, during the short period since the start of construction, have changed the appearance of the work by planning the work organization and by effectively mobilizing and utilizing the means of machinery in conformity with [word indistinct] of the assignments of work of filing and digging earth. Under the difficult situation of carrying out the work, in particular, the party members and working people at the Yonyo industrial station in the (Nanam) district, who are engaged in construction of the streetcar lines, have effected an upsurge in completing the monthly work target in ten days by highly displaying a revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. [end recording]

KCNA Review of 25 Jul Pyongyang Press

SK2507054891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Press Review]

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il- song received the national delegation of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship, a report that he, together with the delegation, saw the music and dance performance of artists, a photograph he posed with journalists accompanying the delegation and a report that a gift was presented to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il by the delegation.

Given in the press is news that the above-said delegation arranged a banquet upon the conclusion of its Korean visit.

NODONG SINMUN carries a message of greetimgs to President Kim Il-song sent by Dilip Barua, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist-Leninist), on the occasion of the day of victory of the Korean people in the Fatherland Liberation War and news that he received a letter from the participants in a meeting of solidarity with the Korean people held in Zimbabwe.

An article of the paper says that President Kim Il-song has put his heart and soul into stepping up the comprehensive mechanization of agriculture to free our farmers from difficult and toilsome work and showed them loving care.

"Our Socialism for the People Will Not Perish", a work of Comrade Kim Chong-il, was reported by foreign newspapers, says the press.

MINJU CHOSON tells about the gem floor of the Pyongyang maternity hospital associated with the great love of Comrade Kim Chong-il for the people.

Spotlighted in the press is a report that thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were conveyed to those units and working people who distinguished themselves in assisting the Komdok mining complex.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article titled "Advantages of Our Socialism and Our People's Life in Three Domains".

It is reported in the daily that the general secretary of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua met with the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK ambassador to Tunisia paid a farewell call on the president of the country.

Introduced in the press are successes of DPRK players at the world junior freestyle wrestling tournament and the 16th Universiad.

NODONG SINMUN carries the white paper on the nuclear problem in Korea published by the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front.

MINJU CHOSON runs an article demanding the immediate release of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, woman student Yim Su-kyong and other visitors to the North.

Conveyed in NODONG SINMUN is what foreign public figures said in demand of their release.

In a commentary, the daily denounces the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities for scheming to stage the "Team Spirit" joint military execises next year, too.

Under the block-letter titles "The United States, Take Its Nuclear Weapons and Aggressor Troops Out of South Korea Without Delay" and "The U.S. Imperialists, Go Home at Once, Taking Along Their Lethal Weapons", the press gives an account of functions held in foreign countries on the occasion of the June 25-July 27 month of anti-U.S. joint struggle.

China is endeavouring to prevent floods and rescue flood victims, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the Senegalese president expressed dissatisfaction over the summit of seven Western nations and the Vietnamese paper NHAN DAN in a commentary on the summit said that capitalism assumes the character of conflict.

The daily informs the readers that the joint plenary meeting of the Moscow City Committee and Control Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was held, the Soviet paper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA warned that the Communist Party is in the danger of being converted into a bourgeois party and an official of the State Security Committee of the Soviet Union exposed that the espionage and reconnaissance activities of the United States are expanding in the Soviet Union and the formation of a "transitional government" was rejected in Madagascar.

Papers dedicate articles to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Syria.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article entitled "U.S. Imperialist Ambition To Dominate Asia-Pacific Region and Their Nuclear Weapons".

South Korea

Official, Press React to Kim Il-song's Statement

SK2507101491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0925 GMT 25 Jul 91

[By Ko Sung-il]

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (YONHAP)—South Korean press commentators and government officials on Thursday shown keen attention to North Korean president Kim Il-song's remarks that his country would keep abreast of the democratic reforms sweeping the world and adopt a realistic diplomatic policy while maintaining its socialistic system.

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Kim's remarks are notable in that he reaffirmed its willingness to accept outside inspection of the nuclear installations in North Korea and to seek a realistic diplomacy.

The official said, however, he did not saw any drastic change in North Korea's foreign policy in the foreseeable future in view of the fact that Kim made clear North Korea would continue to uphold its socialist system.

Kim made the remarks in a meeting Wednesday with visiting Japanese legislators, led by Hajime Ishii, a liberal democrat who chairs a Japanese legislators' league for the promotion of North Korea-Japan friendship.

The official said he could not read in Kim's remarks any signs of change in the North Korean policy toward the South. He said that Kim's remarks on the possibility of the two Koreas reaching a compromise on the issue of non-aggression declaration were nothing but a reiteration of Pyongyang's long-held position. The CHUNGANG ILBO, a mass-circulation evening daily, commented in its Thursday's editions that it hoped Kim's remarks would exert a positive influence on inter-Korean relations and the North's foreign policy.

The paper cautioned against a hasty judgement saying that his remarks were rather directed to Japan in view of the need to win its favor prior to the fourth-round talks on normalization of bilateral relations and to shore up its tarnished image. North Korea has been preceived in the outside world as the most isolated communist nation.

"It is our belief that the North wants to gain economic aids from Japan through rapprochement while its policy toward the south remains unchanged. It is contradictory for the North to employ a double standard in its South Korea policy on one hand and take pragmatic attitudes toward the rest of the world on the other," the paper said.

The KUKMIN ILBO, another evening daily said in its commentary that Kim's remarks were significant because he recognized democratic movements in former east-bloc nations for the first time, either officially or unofficially. It predicted his statement would herald in meaningful changes in North Korean foreign policies.

It said his remarks were a signal, presaging a success of the fourth round of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang scheduled for late August.

Stricken by the economic doldrums and diplomatic isolation, the paper said, the North had no choice but to escape from isolation and to expand exchanges with the West.

Kim's remarks were closely connected with Pyongyang's recent new diplomatic gestures, highlighted by application for U.N. membership and acceptance of outside inspection of its nuclear facilities, the paper said.

North Businessmen Agree on Barter Trade Terms

SK2507034091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (YONHAP)—South and North Korean businessmen have recently agreed upon the terms of the first inter-Korean barter trade involving the North's cement and anthracite and the South's rice, government sources said Thursday.

The prices of cement and coal were set at 50 U.S. dollars and 40 dollars per ton, repectively, and the volumes at 11,000 tons and 30,000 tons to be on a par with the total worth of rice at 1.75 million dollars for 5,000 tons, according to the sources.

A government official said delivery of cement and coal could be delayed, though Pyongyang promised to send at least within three months of receiving rice from the South.

Hong Kong Name Used To Ship Rice to North

SK2407043691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0408 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)—Daewoo Co., the trading arm of the Daewoo Business Group, exported 30,000 tons of Vietnamese rice to North Korea last week using the name of a Hong Kong buyer, a government source said Wednesday.

The rice was unloaded on July 18 near the estuary of Taedong River, southwest of Pyongyang, the source said.

Soviet Union Fails To Settle Overdue Bills

SK2407121891 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 24 Jul 91 p 6

[Text] The Soviet Union has failed to fulfill its promise to settle the overdue bills for the ROK exports despite its agreement to pay the overdue amount as soon as it receives the cash loan from the ROK. Two months have passed since the Soviet Union drew the cash loan provided by the ROK.

Therefore, the government has set up a policy, it has been learned, to raise this issue at the working negotiations between the two countries which is scheduled for next month for the second batch of cash bank loans, and, in case the Soviet side still fails to keep its promise, to deduct the overdue amount for the ROK exports from the second batch of bank loans.

A government official on 22 July said: $500 million, which comprised the first batch of the $1 billion which a consortium of 10 banks, including the Industrial Bank, is to provide the Soviet External Economic Bank, was drawn by the Soviet side on 17 May. At the time when the agreement on the bank loan was made, it was agreed that the Soviet side would use the loan fund to settle the overdue bills for the ROK exports ahead of anything else.

The total overdue amount to be paid by the Soviet Union for the ROK exports over the last few years is known to be $36 million at present.

The government official said: "Although two months had passed since the Soviet side drew the loan, the Soviet side did not show any sign of settling the overdue amount, so we contacted the Soviet side a short while ago and were told that the Soviet Government had already issued instructions to pay the amount. From this we can guess that the delay results from the inefficient coordination between the internal organizations of the Soviet Union. Therefore, we intend to raise this issue at the negotiations for the second batch of the bank loan." The ROK's consortium of banks is expected to provide the Soviet Union with $500 million as its second batch of bank loans in September.

The entire amount of the said $1 billion bank loan, which is part of the $3 billion economic cooperation fund to be provided for the Soviet Union over the period of three years from now, will be given to the Soviet side within this year, and it is supposed to be reimbursed in five-year annual installments with a three-year grace period with the payment guarantee of the Soviet Government.

Meanwhile, the $800 million subletting loan for raw materials and consumer goods which is to be given also this year was supposed to be provided last April and May, but drawing has not yet been made because of the internal conditions of the Soviet side.

Iranian Oil Minister Meets Prime Minister

LD2407212891 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—In a meeting with South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-Sik in Seoul Wednesday, Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh lauded South Korea's readiness to participate in Iran's reconstruction projects.

"At present," Aqazadeh said "we have no problems with South Korea in any field, and the two countries are interested in expanding mutual ties in political, economic and cultural areas."

Aqazadeh is in Seoul at the head of a delegation to take part in the 4th session of Iran-South Korea joint economic commission.

The South Korean premier said his country was keen on cooperation in various fields with Iran which he described as one of the most important countries in the Persian Gulf region.

Mongolian Official Arrives, Holds Aviation Talks

SK2507021591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0038 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (YONHAP)—Aviation officials of South Korea and Mongolia are discussing opening regular air routes between their two countries, which would cut Korean airlines' flight to Europe by one and half hours.

Business sources said TS Ayurzana, director-general of the Mongolian Civil Aviation Authority, is in Seoul for talks with Korean Government and airline officials.

While here until Sunday, Ayurzana, who concurrently heads the national flag-carrier Miat Mongolian Airlines, will meet with Chang Po-si, director-general for Aviation Affairs at the Transportation Ministry, and other officials shortly.

If an air route is opened between South Korea and Mongolia, the Korean Air (KAL) will have its flight to Europe shortened by one and half hours, a KAL spokesman said. In efforts to open the flight route, KAL had decided to lease a Boeing 727 aircraft to Miat for free, he added.

An air route between South Korea and Mongolia will also offer KAL with better chances to fly Seoul-Beijing-Mongolia and Moscow, he said.

"The air route is likely to be opened in September, although we have to make progress in aviation talks with China first," the spokesman said.

Business sources said a few Korean tourist agencies were contacting Mongolian tourist firms to open chartered flights before the launching of the regular route.

South Korea and Mongolia established diplomatic ties in March 1990.

Minister Plans To Create Ambassadorial Posts

SK2407115091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1100 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok on Wednesday said he plans to create a new ambassadorial post for Asia-Pacific affairs.

Yi said he is also considering creating another ambassador-level post in charge of military affairs.

"Timed with South Korea's entry to the United Nations, a plan is under consideration for appointing a new ambassador to handle issues to be discussed at the U.N. committee on arms reduction and various other military affairs," the foreign minister said.

Meeting with South Korean reporters at the end of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) post-ministerial conference in Kuala Lumpur, Yi said another new ambassador would be in charge of regional consultations such as ASEAN and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as well as multilateral security talks.

South Korea attended the annual ASEAN conference for the first time as a full-dialogue partner this year. ASEAN comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore, and its full-dialogue partners are Japan, the United States, Australia, Canada, European Community, New Zealand and South Korea.

In a report to Foreign Ministry here, Yi was quoted as evaluating this year's meeting highly satisfactory in results.

"The conference carries an important meaning in elevating South Korea's status in the international society and expanding its diplomatic working circle," Yi said.

Saying he would seek to create a new ambassador-level post for Asia-Pacific affairs, he pledged active participation in all future regional consultations.

IISS Korean National Committee Names Chairman

SK2507101691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0928 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Korean National Committee on Wednesday elected Kim Chong-hwi, chief presidential advisor for diplomacy and national security, the new chairman.

The committee also appointed veteran journalist Pak Kwon-sang as auditor.

The London-based IISS is membered by some 2,000 government, academic, media and military leaders from more than 80 nations. Seoul will be hosting the institute's 34th general session Sept. 9-13 next year.

Yu Hyock-in, former ambassador to Portugal and currently chairman of the international culture society of Korea, was named board member of the IISS headquarters last March.

Electronics Exports to Eastern Europe Plunge

SK2507053291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (YONHAP)—Exports of South Korean electronics goods to Eastern European nations have plunged in recent months because of shortfalls of foreign exchange holdings, a business source said Thursday.

Exports of color television sets, video cassette recorders and miocrowaves to these nations almost doubled in the first two months from a year earlier but took a plunge to close the first half with a mere 10-15 percent expansion.

Samsung Electronics Co. shipped 45 million dollars of electronics goods in the January-February period, up 110 percent from the same period of 1990. Exports drastically cooled down in the four ensuing months and registered a 13 percent growth at 140 million dollars.

Goldstar Co. shipped 88 million dollars of color television sets, VCR's and microwaves in the first half and it forecast second half exports would drop 30 percent from the first half, according to the source.

Exports of Daewoo Electronics Co. shrank 11-20 percent in the corresponding period.

Exports are unlikely to rebound soon as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary started putting a brake on imports and conflicts in Yugoslavia made exports almost impossible, the source said.

Trading Firm Signs Barter Deal With Burma

SK2507021991 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Jul 91 p 6

[Text] Korea Trading International Inc. [KOTI] reached an agreement with Myanmar [Burma] on $8 million worth of barter trade, KOTI said yesterday.

Under the deal, KOTI will offer $4 million in products, including agricultural machinery, heavy chemicals and fodder, to Myanmar in return for raw rubber.

KOTI plans to supply small-and medium-sized parts, including shoes parts and electronics parts makers, with the raw rubber imported from Myanmar.

Both sides also agreed to diversify trading items and to expand the volume, if the barter trade between them is successful.

Small Businesses Favor Trade With China

SK2407091191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0840 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)—China was favored by nearly three out of every 10 representatives from South Korean small-and medium-sized firms who visited the Small and Medium Industry Promotion Corp. (SMIPC) to get information helpful for their overseas investment plans during the first half this year, SMIPC officials said Wednesday.

Of 358 businessmen who sought advice for their plans to invest in foreign countries in the first six months, 107 or 29.9 percent showed business interest in China, said a spokesman of the state-run company.

Indonesia followed with 71 (19 percent), Malaysia 33 (9 percent) and Vietnam (7.5 percent), he said.

Asian countries accounted for 87.3 percent altogether.

Korean businessmen are showing signs of avoiding Southeast Asian countries in view that business competition is getting heated following massive foreign investments in the region over the past years, he said.

A growing number of Korean businessmen are paying their attention to China's active drive to invite foreign investors. On top of it, he added, the cultural similarity between Korea and China plays a role in attracting the South Koreans to China.

Imports of Construction Goods Continue To Rise

SK2407033091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Jul 91 p 8

[Text] Imports of construction materials and equipment are still rising despite the government's strenuous efforts to cool down overheated construction activities.

According to statistics from the Trade-Industry Ministry, their imports in May increased as much as 32.4 percent from the same month last year to $567 million.

However, the increase was lower than the 38.1 percent rise recorded in the first five months of this tear when imports of construction materials and equipment registered $2,535 million.

Imports of construction materials and equipment in May accounted for 8 percent of the nation's total imports. The comparative ratio during the January-May period was 7.5 percent.

Last year, $4,991 million worth of construction materials and equipment were imported, accounting for 7.2 percent of the nation's aggregate imports.

The drop in imports of construction materials and equipment in May over the first give months was ascribed to the government's steps to cool down overheated construction activities announced on May 3.

The steps were designed to stabilize consumer and wholesale prices.

However, imports of construction raw materials such as glasses, wall papers, window panes and locks are rapidly increasing because of public preference of foreign products.

Specifically, their imports in May rose 35 percent to $515 million and those in the first give months increased 35.7 percent to $2,241 million.

In the meantime, imports of construction equipment such as bulldozers and dump trucks increased only 11.2 percent in May to $43 million, far down from the 71.6 percent rise during the January-May period when their imports recorded $256 million.

Thanks to the government's efforts to control overheated construction activities, the size of land where residential housing is allowed to be built decreased 25.8 percent in May compared with the 32 percent increase in February.

The construction of commercial buildings is markedly decreasing as well.

Last year, residential housing accounted for 60.9 percent of the nation's total construction projects with 22.7 percent for commercial buildings.

Foreigners Allowed To Participate in Tenders

SK2407094891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0905 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—Foreigners will be allowed to participate in tenders to be organized by the state-run Korea Telecom for the purchase of "general items," except for communications network equipment, from next year, company officials said Wednesday.

The opening is in accordance with the agreement of the Korea-U.S. talks on the government procurement in February last year.

Opening of the communications network equipment, including electronic switchboards, transmission equipment, wireless equipment and cables, will be made from 1993.

With the decision, foreigners will be able to participate in tenders to be placed for the purchase of general products worth more than 130,000 special drawing rights (164,400 U.S. dollars) a year.

Korea Telecom, the sole undertaker of the telephone and communications business in Korea, will take step for adopting open examination and selection of products and strengthening the certification of the quality.

The company purchased goods worth 1,343.4 billion won (about 1.84 billion U.S. dollars) in 1990. Of the money, 196.7 billion won was used to purchase general items.

Purchases of communications network equipment accounted for 70 percent to 80 percent of the Korea Telecom's total purchase.

Footwear Exports Decrease in First Half of 1991

SK2507092791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0541 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea's footwear exports in the first half this year decreased 11 percent to 165 million pairs, compared with 185 million pairs a year earlier, the Korea Footwear Exporters Association said Thursday.

The volume was valued at 1.88 billion U.S. dollars, down 1.4 percent from 1.90 billion dollars over the last year, according to the association.

Korea exported 79 million pairs of shoes to the United States or in turnover of 997 million dollars, down 23.4 percent from 103 million pairs and 16.2 percent from 1.19 billion dollars.

It exported 69.5 million dollars of shoes to Italy, up 67.5 percent over last year, 114 million dollars of shoes to Britain, up 30.6 percent and 75.9 million dollars to Germany, up 19.3 percent, the association said.

By item, exports of leather shoes posted 66 million dollars, down 35 percent from 102 million dollars, and that of chemy [word as received] shoes 142 million dollars, down 19 percent from 176 million dollars. Leathery athletic shoes, however, increased three percent to 1,386 million dollars over 1,341 million dollars.

Korean firms's export strategy shift from low-priced footwear items to high-priced ones, such as althletic shoes, contributed to slower reduction in terms of value, in contrast with sharp fall in volume.

However, this year's originally set goal or 4.5 billion dollars of exports are unlikely to be achieved, according to the association.

Millions in Deficit for Tourist Spending Reported

SK2507093891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea's tourism balance swung to a deficit of 200 million U.S. dollars in the first half of the year led by a surge in the number of Koreans going abroad, the Bank of Korea (BOK) said Thursday.

Korean tourists spent 1.77 bilion dollars abroad, up 19 percent from the same period last year, while foreign tourists consumed 1.57 billion U.S. dollars in Korea, down 5.5 percent from 1.66 billion dollars, according to the central bank.

Korea had sustained surpluses since 1983, though the amount shrank to 960 million dollars in 1989 and 390 million dollars in 1990 from the all-time high of 1.92 billion dollars in 1988 when the Seoul Olympic games were held.

The number of foreign entries was 1.01 million in January-May, up 1.7 percent from the cited period last year while individual spendings averaged 1,290 dollars, down 8.3 percent, the bank said.

The foreign visitors comprised 509,000 Japanese, about the half of the total, 109,000 Taiwanese and 92,000 Americans.

Korean exits were counted at 703,000, up 16 percent, and individual spendings averaged 2,034 dollars.

3 Foreign Investments Worth $517 Million Approved

SK2407095791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0914 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)—South Korea's Finance Ministry approved on Wednesday three foreign investments valued at some 517 million dollars, a ministry official said.

Aramco Overseas Co. B.V. of Netherlands, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Saudi Arabia's state-run oil company, has been authorized to put in 470.4 million dollars for a joint venture with Ssangyong Oil Refining Co. of South Korea.

Aramco will have a 35 percent stake of Ssangyong oil followed by Ssangyong cement at 28.4 percent and general shareholders at 36.6 percent.

The government had rejected the Ssangyong-Aramco joint venture because of a glut of refined oil on the domestic market.

SHV Holding N.V. of Netherlands, a major wholesaler in Europe, will be teamed up with Kim Ho-yon, president of Hanyang Stores Co., to set up a 49-51 joint venture, Makro Korea Ltd, and advance to Korea's wholesale and retail market. SHV Holding will invest 24.5 million dollars to build two shops on the outskirts of Seoul and one in Inchon.

Betz International Inc. of the United States has got a license to invest 6.85 million dollars to set up Betz Korea Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary, which will have factories in Ulsan and Yeochon and produce chemical goods treating industrial waste water.

Government Shelves Project To Import Labor

SK2407034091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Jul 91 p 8

[Text] The government has decided to shelve the projected import of workers which has been sought in the name of training of foreigners.

The extended foreigner training system, which was projected to be introduced in October, aimed at solving the shortage of manpower on production lines in manufacturing industry.

Officials of the Economic Planning Board said yesterday that the government will help manufacturers recruit women and aged people to the maximum instead of importing workers.

Manufacturers will be encouraged to use manpower in the services industry.

An official said it is true that several manufacturing sectors have been experiencing a severe shortage of workers but there are a considerable number of potential workers idle.

He also said if imports of manpower increase in the name of foreigner technology training there will be few tools to ban imports of workers in reality.

The Trade-Industry Ministry had planned to extend the legal training course for foreigners from the current three months to one year to utilize cheap foreign labor.

The foreigner training system had also been planned to be applied to all manufacturers whether they have incorporated firms overseas or not. Currently, firms with incorporated companies overseas are allowed to train foreigners for three months to the maximum.

But the extension of training period will facilitate a flooding influx of cheap labor from Southeast Asian nations including the Philippines and this will crease friction with domestic labor, the official said.

Ministry Orders Safety Checks on Fighter Planes

SK2407124491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1233 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Defense Ministry, prompted by wire reports on stress cracks developing in some older F-16 fighters, instructed Wednesday the Air Force to conduct close safety checks on the 36 F-16 fighters now in use in the nation.

The ministry also asked the U.S. Department of Defense and General Dynamics Corp., manufacturer of the attack aircraft, to send relevant materials that would help detect possible fault in the aircraft.

Ministry officials said there have been no reports of stress cracks in the Korean F-16 fleet.

Ministry, DLP Finalize Draft for Cable TV

SK2507025791 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Cable TV [CATV] production and programming will be open to all who wish to participate but existing press organizations, business conglomerates and their subsidiaries will be banned from operating CATV stations.

The Information Ministry and the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] finalized the draft for CATV legislation during consultations yesterday.

CATV broadcasting is being aired on trial basis in two districts in Seoul and is expected to go into full swing in the latter half of this decade.

Under the finalized plan, Cable TV projects will be divided into three parts—broadcasting stations, production and programming, and transmitting networks.

No one person or corporation will be allowed to control two of the three parts in order to prevent any monopolization of Cable TV in observance of the Broadcasting Law.

Permission for the operation of broadcasting stations will be issued by the Information Ministry after the Communications Ministry conducts technical examinations.

One broadcasting station will be allowed in each broadcasting district to be zoned later under presidential decree. Permission for the operation of broadcasting stations will be effective for two years.

Burma

Diplomatic Ties Established With PNG

BK2407162491 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] With the intention of further promoting friendship and cooperation between the Union of Myanmar [Burma] and Papua New Guinea [PNG] on the basis of the principles outlined in the UN Charter and International Law that call for equality among nations, respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of others, the governments of the two countries have jointly signed a declaration to establish bilateral diplomatic relations effective 24 July 1991.

Election Officials Hold Coordination Meeting

BK2407161591 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The Commission for Multiparty Democratic General Elections and the chairmen of the state and divisional elections subcommissions held a work coordination meeting in the conference room of the Commission Office at No. 94, Natmauk Road, Bahan Township, at 1000 today.

Present at the meeting were Commission Members U Saw Kyar Doe, U Sann Maung, and Saya Chai and Commission Secretary U Aye Maung; chairmen of state and divisional elections subcommissions; U Thaung Nyunt, director general of the Attorney General's Office; legal experts; and responsible officials of the Commission Office.

The meeting was chaired by U Saw Kyar Doe while U Tun Sein, director general of the Commission Office, officiated as secretary of the meeting.

In his opening address, Presiding Chairman U Saw Kyar Doe said he is chairing the meeting as Commission Chairman U Ba Htay is resting after an eye operation. He expressed his pleasure for having the opportunity to address the meeting.

He said: Judging from the work being done by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] headed by Senior General Saw Maung, it is obvious that efforts are being made in a definitive, correct, dynamic, and meticulous manner. The SLORC is today undertaking a revolution in moving from one era to another, and hence, work must be done in harmony with such a revolution.

In constructing the nation, the SLORC is carrying out a definitive program in accordance with that revolution. Since the leaders of the nation today are soldiers, they will not permit any deviation from the path. If there are obstacles along the way, these will be removed and overcome. They will march until their goals are attained. [passage omitted]

Next, Commission Member Saya Chai said: It is the duty of the Elections Commission to guide the registered parties and organizations through rules and regulations. On 25 June, SLORC Chairman Sr. Gen. Saw Maung said that it is the responsibility of the commission to ensure that the parties follow the rules and work according to the law. This is a fact already known by all.

The commission has thus issued Directive No. 2/91 so that elections subcommissions can guide the central as well as the grass roots organs of registered political parties and organizations to act strictly according to existing laws, by-laws, orders, and directives.

The purpose of the law that had registered the political parties is to enable them to compete in the elections. Elections have already been held and hence, the objective of the law has already been achieved. But, as we all know, there are still 79 registered political parties today. Hence, it is natural for the commission and the subcommissions to oversee the registered parties and organizations.

The reason why the chairmen of the state and divisional elections subcommissions are invited to this meeting for discussion is to enable them to submit their frank views and to exchange ideas about how to oversee the registered political parties. Elections subcommissions must take the utmost care to ensure that they do not interfere in the internal affairs of political parties.

It is common knowledge that the Union of Myanmar [Burma] no longer observes the 1945 or the 1975 state constitution. Since there is no existing state constitution, the commission has only the Elections Law and By-laws to guide them in all aspects of their work.

The relations between the commission and the political parties will be explained now. Since the time registrations were permitted to the political parties that wished to run in the elections, the elections commission had put them on record and had announced the list through the central executive committees of political parties. Today, although the multiparty democratic general elections have already been held, political parties have frequently been reporting to the commission about the changes, substitutions, and expansion of their central executive commissions. That the commission is continuing to register these changes is not in line with the objective of the Elections Law. In addition, some central executive committees are unstable and there have been many problems in working with them. The decisions taken by the central executive committees of political parties can be firm only when the committees are stable. Hence, the commission has already told the political parties to ensure that their central executive committees and their grass roots organs are stable.

Today, the SLORC is waging a revolution. It is apparent for all to see that the SLORC is doing everything possible with might and main to create conditions for the abolishment of the one-party system and to build a multiparty system. In order to ensure that a new multiparty democratic nation emerges, it will be essential for all the people and the political parties in the nation to join hands and work in unity with the SLORC. [passage omitted]

'Insurgents' Surrender To Authorities 8-14 Jun

BK2207114791 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] People belonging to various terrorist insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering at different Army camps with arms and ammunition. Accordingly, the following surrenders took place between 8-14 June 1991:

Southeast Military Command: Private Aung Ko U of the terrorist insurgent ABSDF's [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] 201st Battalion surrendered through the Kawtaung Township Law and Order Restoration Council [LORC] at Kawthaung camp. Pvt. Min Min surrendered at Tenasserim camp. Pvts. Toe Naing, Aung Tatni alias Than Lwin, and Than Tun alias Laslu Dilu of the 203rd Battalion surrendered at Tenasserim camp. Pvt. Soe Myint surrendered at Thagu camp. Pvts. Ngwe Aye, Chit Ko U, and Zaw Min alias Zaw Gyi surrendered at Kyargaung camp. Pvt. Thet Min of the 209th Battalion surrendered at Myawadi camp. Supplies-in-charge Oke Kyan of the terrorist insurgent KNU's [Karen National Union] 6th Brigade surrendered together with two .45mm pistols and one ordinary pistol at Myawadi camp.

Eastern Military Command: Pvts. Sai Myat, Sai Yee, and Than Maung of the terrorist insurgent SUA [Shan United Army] surrendered with two M-16 automatic rifles to the Twesang military column. Pvts. Aik San, Aik Kham, and Aik Yi surrendered together with two M-16 automatic rifles and one M-21 automatic rifle at Mong Hsat camp. Pvt. Pai Ka of the terrorist insurgent SURA [Shan United Revolutionary Army] surrendered with one 7.65mm pistol at Keng Kham camp.

Western Military Command: Pvt. Maung Lay of the ABSDF's 101st Battalion surrendered at Maungdaw camp.

Northern Military Command: Pvt. Lahtaw Lasang of the terrorist insurgent KIA's [Kachin Independence Army] 5th Battalion surrendered at Bhamo camp. Sergeant Mari Maw Aung of the 3rd Battalion surrendered at Myitkyina camp. Pvt. Tun Saung surrendered at Waingmaw camp through the Madein Ward [LORC].

A total of 22 insurgents surrendered between 8 and 14 June and these people who have come back to the legal fold after realizing the truth and giving up the armed struggle were warmly received by the responsible officials of the camps concerned.

More Surrender 15-19 Jun

BK2307075191 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] People belonging to various terrorist insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering at different Army camps with arms and ammunition. Accordingly, the following surrenders took place between 15-19 June 1991:

Northern Military Command: Privates Thein Lin and Maung Phon of the terrorist insurgent KIA's [Kachin Independence Army] 1st Battalion surrendered with two M-21 automatic rifles at (Pang Song-yang) camp. Pvt. Maraw Naw Aung of the 5th Battalion surrendered at Bhamo camp. Pvt. Bo Tun Laphe surrendered at Kamaing camp.

Pvt. Thet Aung of the terrorist insurgent ABSDF's [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] 702d Battalion surrendered at Myitkyina.

Southeast Military Command: Pvts. Htay Min and Nyi Nyi Than of the terrorist insurgent ABSDF's 103d Battalion gave themselves up at Kyagaung camp. Pvt. Thein Soe surrendered at Tagu camp.

Pvt. Aung Tin of the 201st Battalion surrendered at Palaw camp.

Pvt. Saw Deefar, alias Saw Aye Myint, of the terrorist insurgent KNU's [Karen National Union] No. 4 Township, Donyin, gave himself up at Eindu People's Police Station.

Southern Military Command: Pvt. Chit Ko Ko of the terrorist insurgent KNU headquarters surrendered at Toungoo garrison.

Northwest Military Command: Pvt. San Hlay Ei of the Chin terrorist insurgent group—CNF [expansion unknown]—surrendered to Haka Law and Order Restoration Council.

Eastern Military Command: Sergeants Ti Pa and Lao Aye and Privates Kyaw Tun and Lao-U of the terrorist insurgent SUA [Shan United Army] surrendered together with three M-16 at (Ti-san).

A total of 16 insurgents surrendered between 15-19 June, and these people who have come back to the legal fold after realizing the truth and giving up the armed struggle were warmly received by the responsible officials of the camps concerned.

More Surrender 20-30 Jun

BK2407090491 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] People belonging to various terrorist insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering at different Army camps with arms and ammunition. Accordingly, the following surrenders took place between 20-30 June 1991:

Northern Military Command: Private Lajun Monseng of the terrorist insurgent KIA's [Kachin Independence Army] 13th Battalion surrendered at Tanaing camp through the Tanaing Township People's Police Force.

Organizer Maung Maung Kha of the terrorist insurgent ABSDF's [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] 701st Battalion surrendered at Myitkyina. Pvt. Myint Thein surrendered at Mohnyin camp.

Southwest Military Command: Pvt. Yu Way of the terrorist insurgent ABSDF's 209th Battalion gave himself up at Myawadi camp. Pvt. Myint Win of the 207th Battalion surrendered at Shwegun camp. Pvt. Aye Naing surrendered at Myawadi. Pvts. Maung Lay, Than Htay, and Kyu Lin of 203d Battalion gave themselves up at Tenasserim camp. Pvt. Tin Maung Lay of 101st Battalion surrendered at Thanbyuzayat.

Pvts. Myo Kyaw U and Di Aung of the 201st Battalion surrendered to the Mergui Township Law and Order Restoration Council. Pvt. Myo Thu Tun of 216th Battalion gave himself up at Myawadi camp.

Company Commander Phone Myint U and Pvts. Soe Naing, Tin Shwe, and Maung Hla of the 208th Battalion surrendered with one .45 pistol and two AK-47 automatic rifles at Bilin camp.

Corporal Than Way of the terrorist insurgent KNU [Karen National Union] surrendered at Mudon with one AK-47 automatic rifle.

Pvt. Aung Lwin, alias Aung Hla, of the terrorist insurgent Burma Communist Party's Tenasserim Military Region surrendered at Mergui camp.

Cpl. Maung Win, alias Maung Sann, of the terrorist insurgent NMSP [New Mon State Party] gave himself up with one carbine at Three Pagodas Pass camp.

Western Military Command: Pvt. Than Nyunt of the terrorist insurgent ABSDF's 203d Battalion surrendered at Maungdaw. Pvt. Than Hlaing of the terrorist insurgent NUSA [expansion unknown] surrendered at Mrauk-u.

Twenty-two terrorist insurgents surrendered between 20 and 30 June. The total number of these terrorist insurgents who came back to the legal fold in June is 82. The returnees were warmly received by the responsible officials of the camps concerned.

1,889 Return From Thailand Beginning 7 Jul

BK2207153991 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Myanmar [Burmese] citizens who had previously entered Thailand illegally had voluntarily been returning to different areas of Kawthaung township to avoid arrest by regional Thai authorities. Upon receipt of this information, a task force was formed by responsible officials headed by U Maung Aung, director general of the Immigration and Manpower Department [IMPD]. After collecting detailed statistics starting on 5 July the returnees were sent home beginning on the morning of 7 July. The third batch consisting of 431 persons, both male and female, were returned to Moulmein on 21 July.

Officials from the township IMPD, the People's Police Force, the departmental personnel concerned, and the IMPD special task force conducted a preliminary investigation of those who were sent back. Detailed investigations reveal that the returnees were not abscondees from law nor did they have links with insurgents. They include four women who were sold by unscrupulous persons and forced into the flesh trade and some were doing odd jobs, or were jobless or vagrants in Thailand.

Under a special program, the Health Department is testing the blood of all those who returned to see whether they are AIDS carriers. [passage omitted]

As of today a total of 1,889 male and female returnees have been sent home via Kawthaung—the first batch of 1,258 persons were sent back on 7 July, the second batch of 200 persons on 9 July, and the third batch of 431 persons on 21 July.

Officials from the township IMPD, the People's Police Force, and responsible personnel from the township court are making preparations to take necessary action against those who were sent back.

Cambodia

Chairman Hun Sen Returns to Phnom Penh

BK2507055291 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0451 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 25 Jul (SPK)—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hun Sen returned this morning to Phnom Penh after attending the informal meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] held on 16 and 17 July in Beijing.

At this inter-Cambodian meeting, the SNC unanimously elected Prince Norodom Sihanouk as its chairman and asked the UN Secretary General to send a mission to Cambodia to assess the modalities for the control of the cease-fire and the cessation of all arms supplies to warring Cambodian parties. The SNC has also decided to hold a formal meeting from 26 to 28 July in Bangkok, Thailand, and to appoint six officials to its secretariat which will begin work a week before the meeting in Bangkok.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, accompanied by two other members of the SNC from the State of Cambodia, later visited North Korea at the invitation of Prince Sihanouk during which the two personalities were received by President Kim Il-sung. Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk agreed to set up a commission to search for aid for the socieconomic rehabilitation and development of the State of Cambodia. The commission has Prince Sihanouk as chairman and three vice chairmen, namely Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen.

On his way back, Hun Sen and his entourage paid a three-day visit to China visiting historic sites, in particular the Great Wall, built in the 3d century B.C. by the T'sin.

Chairman Hun Sen also stopped over in Hanoi where he had talks with Do Muoi, new general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

PRACHEACHON Verifies SNC Status, Role

BK2407144191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Jul 91

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "Do Not Contaminate the Atmosphere of Mutual Trust"]

[Text] A few days ago, through their clandestine radios, the other Cambodian factions, particularly Democratic Kampuchea, kept broadcasting the same old story distorting the initial spirit of the agreement regarding the role of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC].

They are acting contrary to the agreement, with the aim of creating doubts when the agreement is implemented. This act constitutes an intentional breach of the agreement reached in Phatthaya City.

It is imperative to emphasize that the SNC has been formed as the symbol of Cambodia's independence and sovereignty. The SNC is not a government that has a complete structure from central to village levels. Although it represents Cambodia's sovereignty during the transitional period, pending the formation of a new, post-election government, and although it has its headquarters in Phnom Penh and its own anthem and flag, this SNC does not have any official foundation nor the institutional status of a government of Cambodia.

In Phatthaya City in the Kingdom of Thailand, all Cambodian factions unanimously decided that the two existing governments should still continue to administer the zones under their respective control. Therefore, the government of the State of Cambodia, with its own flag and anthem and Phnom Penh as the capital city of the State of Cambodia, is still controlling state affairs in over 90 percent of the territory until a new government is formed after the general election.

Samdech Sihanouk's plan also stated clearly that prior to the election, in order to form a new government, the two existing governments will continue to administer and carry out their own work. The SNC is composed of Samdech Sihanouk, as its president, and 11 members. The SNC's work procedure is to implement a principle of consensus and each member has the right of veto. That the SNC's headquarters is in Phnom Penh does not mean that this is the office of the government. This headquarters, according to the agreement reached in Phatthaya, is just the office of the SNC. Therefore, no one should misinterpret this nor should he try to make the others misunderstand this matter. Such an act would show a desire to contaminate the atmosphere and create mutual distrust. It is certainly not the goodwill that all the factions should show. Rather they should show their resolute determination to create an atmosphere of mutual trust among the Cambodian factions and end enmity among Cambodian factions, thus contributing to quickly reaching a political solution to the Cambodian problem which will bring about peace—the sacred aspiration of the Cambodian people.

The State of Cambodia side reiterates that it will sincerely respect all agreements reached by all the Cambodian factions. At the same time, it demands that the other Cambodian factions respect and sincerely implement all these agreements in order to advance the process toward finding a political solution to the Cambodian problem, in line with the hopes and expectations of the Cambodian people and peace-loving people in the world.

SPK Reports Enemy Cease-Fire Violations

BK2507064091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0511 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 25—The Khmer opposition factions have violated the unlimited ceasefire which they committed themselves to observe as from June 25 after the Phatthaya meeting of the SNC [Supreme National Council] by firing more than 40 shells of artillery and recoilless guns into various areas in the country between July 18 and 22.

On July 18, troops of the Pol Pot faction fired three shells of 28-mm recoilless gun into areas near the district of Chikreng, Siem Reap Province.

On July 19, men of the Son Sann faction fired 20 shells of 60-mm recoilless gun into a place 11 km northeast of Stoung District, Kompong Thom Province. That day, about 160 troops of Pol Pot Division 709 launched two-hour offensive against the government forces in an area 11 km northeast of Chey Sen District, Preah Vihear Province.

On July 20, Polpotists fired eight shells of 82-mm gun into a government position 11 km southwest of Bavel District, Banteay Meanchey Province. Also that day, they fired 10 shells of 75-mm recoilless gun into a government post 11 km northwest of Chikreng District, Siem Reap Province, wounding two children.

On July 22, the enemy troops with the support of artillery and tanks attacked three government positions in areas along Highway 10 in Battambang Province, killing three government troops wounding seven, and burning 10 tons of rice.

Radio Acclaims Establishment of Aid Commission

BK2507010991 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Station commentary: "Advance Another Step With the Samdech"]

[Text] On 22 July in Pyongyang, capital of the DPRK, Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], and Samdech Sihanouk, president of the SNC, jointly announced the setting up of "the Commission in Search of Aid for the Economic and Social Rehabilitation and Development in the State of Cambodia" or in short "the Commission in Search of Aid".

This commission is composed of Samdech Sihanouk as president; Council of State Chairman Comrade Heng Samrin, National Assembly Chairman Comrade Chea Sim, and Council of Ministers Chairman Comrade Hun Sen of the State of Cambodia [SOC] as vice presidents; Comrade SOC Council of Ministers Vice-chairman Comrade Kong Sam-ol as secretary general; and seven other leaders of various SOC state institutions as members.

This communique chearly emphasizes that this commission has the task of keeping in touch with various governments, non-governmental organizations, and charity persons across the world with the aim of obtaining aid for relieving the difficulties of people who are affected by natural calamities, handicapped persons, orphans, refugees, and displaced persons; and rehabilitating the infrastructures of communications, telecommunications, industrial sectors, and agriculture; and improving people's living conditions.

The Cambodian people throughout the country express their warm salutation for the creation of such a commission, and regard this as making another step forward with the samdech in the process to seek peace, security, independence, neutrality, nonalignment, and prosperity for the Cambodian people.

This constitutes the keen attention and lofty sense of responsibility displayed by the samdech and the SOC's top leaders regarding the destiny and future of Cambodia and the Cambodian people.

This is also a good step paving way toward reaching the overall solution for the Cambodian problem which has been stalled for more than 12 years.

It is known to all that if the above-mentioned matters are not settled first, neither the free and fair election nor the international supervision will proceed easily and timely.

Everyone also knows well that after emerging from the war of great destruction created by the imperialists, the Land of the Angkor has been plunged into the abyss of the most barbarous and cruel danger of genocide unprecedented in the history of mankind. Thus, the infrastructures of communications, transportation, posts, industry, agriculture, and socioeconomic sectors which were crippled and destroyed by the war had additionally been ruined to the ground by the Pol Pot clique.

During the past, more than 12 years after our people rose up to topple the traitorous Pol Pot clique, in addition to the war of destruction waged by the Pol Pot clique, our SOC has faced an unjust economic blockade. This is why, despite the fact that our state and people have jointly restored and rebuilt everything which was destroyed by the Pol Pot clique, we still face difficulties. All the things that our people have rebuilt, such as bridges, roads, railroads, schools, hospitals, temples, monasteries, and pagodas, have been burnt down and destroyed with mines by the Pol Pot clique and its allies under the abject pretext of attacking the Vietnamese.

For this reason, the setting up of this Commission in Search of Aid is definitely a good measure for building the country and improving the people's livelihood by eradicating the remnants of war and the vestiges of the genocidal regime.

Prompted by this, our people would like to appeal to the other Cambodian factions which are not in the commission that they behave in a supportive rather than destructive manner.

Indonesia

Reportage on Singapore President's Visit

Arrives for 5-Day Visit

BK2407123891 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] President Wee Kim Wee arrived in Jakarta today for a five-day state visit to Indonesia. He was given a ceremonial welcome at Istana Merdeka [Presidential Palace].

The president and Mrs. Wee later paid a courtesy call on president and Mrs. Suharto. Tonight, the Indonesian Vice President and Mrs. Sudharmono will call on president and Mrs. Wee at Wisma Negara [State Guest House]. The president and the first lady will also attend the state banquet hosted by president and Mrs. Suharto.

President Wee, is accompanied by, among others, the minister for information and the arts, Brigadier General George Yeo, and the minister of state for education, Mr. Sidek Saniff.

This is the first visit to Indonesia by a Singapore president since independence [as heard]. It symbolizes the excellent state of relations between the two countries, and it is considered a milestone in the relatioship. The visit is also in respect of President Suharto as the most senior statesman in ASEAN.

Speaks at Banquet 24 Jul

BK2407145191 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Excerpt] President Wee Kim Wee, who is on a state visit to Indonesia, says relations between Singapore and Indonesia have reached a new and significant level of cooperation for long-term mutual benefits. Speaking at a state banquet hosted by President Suharto this evening, he noted that cooperation in industrial development in Batam is well-established. Efforts will also be made in cooperation in tourism in Bintan.

President Wee said his current visit would strengthen bilateral links. He added the growth triangle cooperation has demonstrated the importance of working together to improve the life of our peoples. Potential investors have also received a strong signal of [words indistinct] cooperation for mutual benefits over a long term. This, President Wee said, boosts confidence and acts as a powerful magnet in enhancing trade and investment throughout ASEAN. We are now poised on the threshold of a new era in ASEAN cooperation. President Wee [words indistinct] Indonesia under President Suharto's leadership has achieved its goals. [passage indistinct]

In his speech, President Suharto said Indonesia is greatly encouraged by the development of the growth triangle involving Batam, Singapore, and Johor. The cooperation within the triangle would not only benefit the direct parties concerned but other ASEAN members states as well. Indonesia [words indistinct] for both economic and industrial cooperation.

On President Wee's visit, President Suharto said he was happy that Indonesia was picked for his first state visit as president of Singapore. [passage omitted]

Suharto Speaks at Banquet

BK2407155291 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Excerpt] President Suharto has reiterated that the Indonesian people continue to adopt the principle of self-reliance in carrying out their national development program. However, due to limited resources in several fields at the initial stage of national development, Indonesia feels that it is necessary to cooperate with other countries to expedite the process of development either through capital investment or technology.

The head of state said this at the banquet in honor of visiting President and Mrs. Wee Kim Wee of Singapore at the State Palace tonight. He said it is important that the spirit of cooperation among countries be encouraged these days, especially among neighboring countries. According to President Suharto, the cooperation should be complementary and would benefit one another as well as strengthen their respective development. [passage omitted]

Suharto Receives Kuwait, PNG Envoy's Credentials

BK2407092291 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0823 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Jakarta, July 24 (ANTARA)—President Suharto voiced hope on Wednesday that the end of the Gulf crisis in the Middle East would lead to an early settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict.

He expressed his hope when he received the credentials of the new ambassador of Kuwait to Indonesia, Ali Zakaria Al-Ansari, at the Merdeka Palace [Presidential Palace].

"We are hoping that as the Gulf crisis has ended, the major problem that has beset the Middle East region can immediately be settled, namely the Arab-Israel conflict the core of which is the Palestinian problem," the head of state said.

Indonesia believes that a settlement of the conflict will create an enduring stability and tranquility for the all the states, nations and people in the Middle East region.

Touching on the war between Kuwait and Iraq, President Suharto said from the very beginning Indonesia had opposed the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The Iraqi invasion had not only harmed the Kuwaiti nation but also Iraq itself.

For that reason, Indonesia has welcomed with relief the ending of hostility between Iraq and Kuwait.

Following the Kuwaiti envoy, President Sucharto also received at the Merdeka Palace the credentials of another new ambassador to Indonesia, Angoea Jushua Tadabe of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The head of state said in his speech that bilateral relations between Indonesia and PNG had entered a more open stage in which the two countries could now work together, not only to resolve existing problems, but also to better the welfare of their two peoples.

He particularly refered with satisfaction to fruitful cooperation at the common border of the two countries.

President Urges Kuwait To Cooperate in OPEC

BK2407162791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0738 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Jakarta, July 24 (AFP)—Indonesia urged Kuwait on Wednesday to cooperate through the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to help stabilise world oil prices.

"As OPEC colleagues, we should cooperate shoulder to shoulder to maintain the organisation's unity and unified stand," President Suharto said in a speech accepting the accreditation of Kuwait's new ambassador here, Ali Zakaria Al-Anbsari.

"Only through unity and a united stand can OPEC be more successful in reaching its objectives," especially in maintaining stable oil prices, Mr. Suharto said.

Kuwait is preparing to return to the oil market after a long absence which began last August with the Iraqi invasion and subsequent damage to its oil facilities.

Both Kuwait and Iraq have been exempted from OPEC's production ceiling of 22.3 million barrels per day, set last month for the third quarter of this year.

Minister Says Crude Oil Export Prices Increase

BK2407111391 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 17 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The prices of Indonesia's crude oil for export increased for the third consecutive month in July after falling to a 1.5-year low in April, says Minister of Mines and Energy Giananjar Kartasasmita.

He told reporters after meeting President Suharto here yesterday that the price of the country's benchmark oil, Minas, which steadily declined from an all-time high of U.S.$35.29 a barrel last September to $17.37 in April, rose to $18.56 this month from $18.30 in May.

"The price increase is due mainly to the decrease of oil stocks held by both oil producers and consumers as production by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) over the last few months has been lower than demand," said Ginanjar, who was accompanied by Director General of Oil and Gas Suyitno Patmosukismo and President of Pertamina (the state oil company) Faisal Abda'u in the meeting with Suharto.

According to the Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), OPEC's crude oil production increased to 23.1 million barrels per day (bpd) in June from 22.2 million bpd in May.

Ginanjar said that stocks held by producers had now dropped by about 50 percent since the end of the Gulf War (in late February).

He said oil prices were expected to further strengthen in the coming months as demand was increasing.

"However, oil price developments in the fourth quarter of this year and the first quarter of next year will be much influenced by any decision by OPEC in its meeting in September on a new production quota," he said.

OPEC decided in March to limit total output to 22.3 million bpd during the second and third quarters. But the quota was then calculated without the participation of Iraq—which was still subject to a United Nations-sponsored trade embargo—and Kuwait—whose oil wells were still ablaze following the Gulf War.

Ginanjar said that he had also reported to Suharto on the Ministry of Finance's assessment on the performance of Pertamina.

Pertamina, he said, was considered to be in a "very healthy" condition for the second time for its operation in 1989/90 (based on the criteria of assessment mentioned in the finance minister's Decree No. 740/KMK. 00/1989).

According to the decree, all state firms should be classified as to whether they are very healthy, rather unhealthy or not healthy before measures are taken to improve their efficiency. The classifiction of the firms is based on their profitability, liquidity and solvency during the last three years.

Pertamina was considered to be in a very healthy condition for the first time in its 32-year history in the 1988/89 fiscal year.

The company's financial report shows that its net profit increased by 17 percent to Rp 875.56 billion ($447.62 million) in 1989/90 from Rp 747.82 billion in 1988/89.

Abda'u said yesterday that Pertamina's net profit was estimated to have further increased by 11.8 percent to Rp 979.18 billion last fiscal year.

"But our financial reports for 1989/90 and 1990/91 have not been audited by the Government Audit Agency (BPKP)" he said.

BPKP awarded an unqualified (clean) opinion to Pertamina for the first time in its history for its operation in 1988/89.

Japanese Justice Minister Sato Visits

OW1907125591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1232 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Jakarta, July 19 KYODO—Japanese Justice Minister Megumu Sato and Indonesian Justice Minister Ismail Saleh discussed Friday the possibility of cooperating in preventing narcotics smuggling and youth crimes, Indonesian officials said.

"We agreed on the need to cooperate, such as in the form of holding a seminar of ways to prevent narcotics and youth crimes, and terrorism," Saleh said.

Saleh said Indonesia has an agreement with Thailand on judicial cooperation, but the type of agreement with Japan still must be discussed.

Saleh also said Sato thanked him for Indonesia's new law to protect the trademarks of foreign products in Indonesia, which Sato believes will make foreign investors feel more secure.

Sato later paid a courtesy call on Indonesian political and Security Minister Sudomo.

After the meeting, Sudomo said they discussed the issue of cooperating to counter terrorism.

"I think the issue was raised in relation to the planned visit of the Japanese Emperor and Empress to Indonesia," Sudomo said.

Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko plan a tour of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia starting on September 26.

Sato is on a two-day trip in Indonesia. He is scheduled to end his visit Saturday.

Laos

Japan Provides Aid for Telecommunications Project

BK2507004891 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] A ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today for the signing of an exchange note on 925 million yen gratis aid from the Japanese Government for the construction of the second phase of the telecommunications system in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. In addition to the Japanese Government's budget, this big project will also receive financial support from other sources such as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program. The Japanese financial assistance will be used for the construction of modern telephone centers of the (Pitum) type with a total capacity of 17,200 gates in Vientiane Municipality, Luang Prabang, Thakhek, Savannakhet, and Pakse.

The exchange note was signed by His Excellency Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign minister, and His Excellency Shigemi Ando, Japanese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos. Attending the ceremony were high-level cadres from ministries concerned and staff members of the Japanese embassy.

New Polish Ambassador Presents Credentials

BK2407162291 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPRD], received credentials from (Mariam Edma Muntaski), new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Laos, at the presidential palace this morning.

During the meeting which proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship, the acting president welcomed and wished the Polish ambassador success in his diplomatic mission in the LPDR so as to further strengthen long existing relations between the governments and peoples of the two countries.

Thai Officials Meet in Loei Province 20 Jul

BK2407125691 Vientiane KPL in English 0939 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Vientiane, July 24 (KPL)—A get-together to promote Lao-Thai relationships was held on July 20 in Chiang Khan District of Thai Loei Province.

The get-together was attended by governors of Lao and Thai bordering provinces and co-chaired by Thai Acting Minister of Interior General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi and Lao Deputy Minister of Interior Siangsom Kounlavong.

The sides discussed ways and possibilities to bring about a fair solution to remaining bilateral issues. These involve doing away with exiled Lao insurgents, drug traffickers, terrorists, bad elements causing trouble along the common border, in addition to solving the issue of illegal immigrants and informal transaction activities.

Further more, the sides exchanged views on the cooperation between the border provinces in economic, trade, touristic and technical fields. All this aims to promote and enrich traditional Lao-Thai relationship.

SRV Sign Joint Transport Management Protocol

BK2307144991 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Recently in Hanoi, the Ministry of Communications, Transport, and Posts of the SRV and the Ministry of Communications, Transport, Posts, and Construction of Laos, respectively acting on behalf of the SRV and Lao Governments, signed a protocol on the management of land transport vehicles traveling between the two countries. On 18 July, the SRV Ministry of Communications, Transport, and Posts informed all departments and units engaging in freight and passenger traffic duties between Vietnam and Laos of the contents of the protocol.

Interior Ministry Security Conference Concluded

BK2307142791 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] The meeting held by the Interior Ministry to review public security maintenance work in the first six months of this year and to map out a plan for the year's second half was officially concluded on 20 July after three days of work. Attending the meeting were Major General Khamphon Boutdakham, member of the party Central Committee and deputy minister of interior; the director of the First Department; and heads of all services in the ministry.

During the meeting, the participants studied and assessed the achievements and victories recorded by the ministry's cadres and combatants in the past six months. They expressed views on and unanimously endorsed the plan for the second half of this year.

At the closing ceremony, Maj. Gen. Khamphon Boutdakham addressed the participants, wholeheartedly commending them for having achieved success and victories. At the same time, he also called on cadres at the commanding level to appreciate and organize the implementation of the plan endorsed for the next six months in their respective services and (?provinces), especially in improving public security maintenance work.

Bar Council of Vientiane Prefecture Established

BK2407124291 Vientiane KPL in English 0923 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Vientiane, July 24 (KPL)—The Ministry of Justice, in line with decree N.24 of the Council of Ministers, has issued a decision on the establishment of the Vientiane Prefecture Bar Council.

The decision provides that while the legal body of the same nature in other provinces cannot yet be established, barristers in these provinces are admitted as members of the Bar Council of Vientiane Prefecture. It also specifies that to facilitate the activities and ensure legal support for individuals and juristic entity, the Vientiane Bar Council is authorized to form its branches in the provinces until these provinces can form their own associations of lawyers. Any locality where the branch cannot be established, barristers there are to be registered at the nearby branch, if conditions are not allowed; they belong to the Vientiane Bar Council.

The decision, signed by justice minister, is effective as from the date it is signed on July 4.

U.S. Art Troupe Presents Show in Vientiane

BK1707102691 Vientiane KPL in English 0922 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Text] Vientiane, July 17 (KPL)—An American art troupe from Hawaii, the U.S., yesterday evening gave at the Vientiane Theatre a show on the traditional dance of Hawaii, with a large audience of spectators. The last night show included 72 events which reflect the beauty and culture of Hawaii in particular and the American culture in general.

The troupe, made up of five men and four women, arrived here on July 15 on a performance tour to Southeast Asia. After Laos, the troupe is heading to Thailand today, then Malaysia and Indonesia finally.

Philippines

Reportage on U.S. Bases Treaty Issues Continues

Workers' Status To Be Discussed

HK2407063391 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 24 Jul 91 p 10

[Text] Labor Secretary Ruben Torres yesterday said Philippine and American labor officials will meet within 90 days after the signing of the new bases agreement to discuss the status of more than 60,000 Filipino base workers in the country.

Contrary to reports that the RP [Republic of the Philippines] panel failed to address the issue, Sec. Torres said the "Agreed Minutes" of the July 17 agreement contains a portion stipulating the discussion and review of the base workers' status.

Sore Point

He admitted, however, that the issue has become a sore point in the discussions as the U.S. panel would not agree to the inclusion of the labor component for the reason that the Bases Labor Agreement (BLA) had just been reviewed.

"The labor issue...(was? holding the agreement up," the labor chief said.

A compromise was reached with the U.S. panel agreeing to the option of renegotiating the BLA, he said.

Labor Undersecretary Bienvenido Laguesma said the labor department would like to "improve existing provisions" of the BLA especially in the light of the U.S. pullout from Clark Air Base and the dislocation caused by the continuing eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo.

A meeting with the Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees' Associations (FFCEA) has been set for next week "to work out proposals...(and) what changes can be made to the BLA," Undersecretary Laguesma said.

According to Sec. Torres, FFCEA president Roberto Flores has agreed that "many things can be threshed out (in the BLA).:

Complaints

The FFCEA, Senator Ernesto Herrera (secretary-general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines to which the FFCEA is affiliated) and several other politicians have denounced the RP panel for disregarding base workers in view of the Clark pullout, a reduction in U.S. personnel and the phaseout of several minor U.S. facilities.

With the turnover of Clark Air Base to the Philippines by September 16, some 26,000 Filipino workers will be directly affected, the labor department said.

Aquino's Influence on Vote Viewed

HK2407050491 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 Jul 91 pp 1, 10

[Excerpt] Senators, even those President Aquino count as her allies, yesterday raised doubts whether she could sway the Senate into voting for the new bases agreement.

Sen. Neptali Gonzales, president of the pro-Aquino Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] (LDP), said many of the senators would vote on the basis of "their own personal convictions."

Gonzales, however, said the President's influence over the senators has not been tested in the past.

"I don't know (if the President has enough influence), but that seems to have been the mark of this presidency wherein the President does not exercise to the maximum the potentials of her leadership," he said.

During her regular radio program Sunday, Ms. Aquino appealed to the senators to approve the treaty and called on the people to exert pressure on the chamber.

Citing the American experience, Gonzales said the U.S. president has succeeded in pushing the administration's legislative agenda in the U.S. Congress because it has been able to exert "all sorts of pressures" on the lawmakers.

Ms. Aquino "still has to show whether she had the stomach or the will" to exert pressure on the senators for the treaty's ratification, he added.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, a pro-bases senator, said he believed the President has a substantial amount of influence over several of his colleagues.

"I think she (Ms. Aquino) could bring in the votes if she would marshall her chiefs (in the Senate)," said Angara.

Although the President's use of her influence "would help," the senator said, "it would not be the sole criterion that they would use in deciding what to vote.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, a critic of the President but a member of the pro-bases camp in the Senate, said the President has no "moral right" to lobby the senators for a favorable vote on the treaty, "if she could not even convince her own brother-in-law."

Sen. Agapito Aquino, the President's brother-in-law, is opposed to continued American military presence here and has promised to reject the new treaty.

Sen. Ernesto Herrera, whose anti-drug campaign is being promoted by the President's younger daughter, said under its present terms, the treaty "would have much difficulty getting 16 votes," the number required for ratification.

Herrera said the treaty disregarded the welfare of Filipino base workers who will be jobless because of the closure of the military facilities. He called for a fresh round of negotiations.

Sen. Heherson Alvarez said he could not tell the extent of the President's influence over his colleagues, but he added that the terms of the new treaty are forcing them "to take a second hard look" at it.

"There is now a renewed skepticism on the treaty because the amount of compensation is too small to meet our needs," Alvarez said.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the President has substantial convincing power over the senators, but he doubted whether she would use it.

"She's never to my knowledge twisted arms here. That's simply not her style," Pimentel said.

Other senators who are in favor of continued American military presence here expressed dissatisfaction over the treaty terms.

The agreement allows U.S. presence in Subic Naval Base for 10 more years in exchange for payment of $203 million a year.

"Generally we accept the new treaty, but we would like to see some improvements," said Sen. Vicente Paterno, an advocate of continued U.S. military presence in the Philippines.

The President said yesterday she will confer with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus before deciding on whether to push through with her plan for a public consultation on the bases issue.

Manglapus, head of the Philippine bases negotiating panel, is attending the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Conference in Kuala Lumpur and will return this week.

The President has been saying that a series of nonbinding public consultations on the new treaty will be held before it is submitted for Senate deliberation.

Diplomats said they believed Manglapus was also trying to lobby for ASEAN support for the U.S. bases in the Philippines in a bid to counter domestic opposition.

Most of the ASEAN members have expressed support for U.S. military presence in the region and believed that the bases would not violate their aspiration for a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality. [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges Renegotiation

HK2307080191 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jul 91 p 4

["On the Level" column by Alex R. Magno]

[Text] The way things stand, it shall be easier to get a camel through the proverbial eye of the needle than to get the draft bases agreement through the Philippine Senate.

Thirteen senators have declared they will oppose the agreement in its present form. That number is likely to swell as a few more previously uncommitted senators are expected to join the majority.

The two-thirds favorable vote required to ratify the treaty could not be mustered. It is more likely that two-thirds will vote against it.

Pro-bases senators John Osmena pnd Ernesto Herrera have stated they will vote against the present agreement in order to force the re-opening of the talks. Osmena feels the compensation offer is much too low. Herrera is concerned that the Filipino base workers deserve more explicit pSotection in any new agreement.

The other senators think the agreement is grossly unfair. Not only is the compensation offer too low, the added tenure granted Subic is too long. The rapid pullout from Clark is too lax. "The U.S. should have been made responsible for the restoration of the core facilities of the base and for better terms for the Filipino workers to be dislocated by the hasty withdrawal."

Too, the draft agreement does not appear to contain clear prohibitions against the storage and transit of nuclear weapons. Our Constitution very clearly bans unclear weapons from our territory. Very little could be done about the compensation offered by the Americans. They have their own priorities, their own deficits and their own Congress to deal with.

Much could still be done, however, in terms of at least symbolically redeeming our national honor. The perception is that our bases negotiations panel completely succumbed to the pressure nd gave in to every U.S. demand.

The Senate will please public opinon by calling back the American negotiators and forcing concessions from them.

The concessions may turn out to be marginal. The basic terms of quick withdrawal from Clark and substantial extension for Subic will likely remain. But the purposes of political theater must be satisfied. the ritual of renegotiation must be held.

If the Senate fails to force renegotiation, that chamber shall be perceived as having lost its much vaunted independence from the Executive Branch. These senators who, in an earlier season, spoke loudly against the bases must now carry out their threat or forever be perceived as eunuchs.

Machismo is on the line hre.

The pressure on the Senate is made greater not only by public expectation but also because popular acceptability of the actions of the Preidency is at a particularly low point. It is, to put it bluntly, quite embarrassing for the Senate to succumb to a Presidency that does not have the public on its side.

The political inclinations of many senators forbid them from allowing this administration to get away with a treaty that disappoints many.

Without discounting the quality of conviction of senators who feel we are getting the shorter end of this deal, the Senate's ability to block a new treaty on the bases carries its own political temptations.

By withholding ratification, the Senate may bargain for political concessions from the Executive Branch as well. It is an opportunity that no serious olitical player would allow to pass.

The relationship between the Senate and the Presidency has been uneasy and, at times, confrontational. Malacanang should not expect the Senate to surrender a strong card without collecting enough political points.

This is the point: over and above the intrinsic defects of the draft agreement, the specific politics between the Presidency and the Senate shall assure that the draft agreement shall continue to be a source of controversy.

The books are not closed yet on the military bases question.

The Aquino Presidency has its fingers on the line. The Senate is likely to step on them.

It is too early for Washington to celebrate. Armitage may have to return one more time to concede a little more.

The negotiations process has been wanting in heroism. That will not satisfy the public. The Senate will want to step onto the centerstage and play the role of hero.

U.S. military presence has disturbed and distressed Filiino political debate for too long. The debate cannot end in this whimper of an agreement that the Palace wants the Senate to ratify.

Possible 'Complications' Viewed

HK2507034591 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 25 Jul 91 p 12

[By Cris V. Paraso and Arnold E. Belleza]

[Text] The Philippine Senate wants the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] to find out whether the United Stats Senate can still act on the proposed bases agreement even as it received yesterday the uninitialed draft of the treaty's provision on the bases.

After a caucus last night, Senate President Jovito R. Salonga told newsmen that complications may arise since the U.S. Congress will adjourn next month—the same time that U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager said the U.S. Government will sign the agreement.

"We urge the DFA to find out the probable calendar of the U.S. Government and what it intends to do (with the agreement). We will insist that it be also ratified by the U.S. Senate to comply with the Constitution," he said.

Sen. Salonga said the senators will be given time to study the draft agreement and a caucus will soon be conducted for a "definitive survey so that the President knows exactly where the Senate stands."

He said initial estimates indicate that a majority of the Upper Chamber will vote against the treaty. "So we would urge the President to renegotiate if there is still room for renegotiation. The question is whether the President will still sign the treaty even if the prospects of rejection in the Senate is so great."

One More Anti-Bases

Meanwhile, another pro-bases solon sided yesterday with anti-bases advocates, thus increasing the number of senators against the proposed bases agreement to 15.

Senator Ernesto M. Maceda, national defense and security committee chairman, said yesterday: "I have decided to vote against the proposed treaty that allows the U.S. to dump on us a base they cannot use and pay a measly sum so that they may retain Subic (Naval Base) for 10 or more years.:

The Manila solon joined Senators Ernesto F. Herrera, John H. Osmena and Heherson T. Alvarez in objecting to the compensation package.

Sen. Maceda said the past weeks showed the Americans "were bent on exploiting our difficulties to get more for the least...American arrogance was helped along by the appalling incompetence of the President's panel assigned to negotiate for us."

Too Low Compensation

He chided the compensation package which "does not even have the standard escalation clause that is included in rentals of an ordinary house or office ...(The) compensation package being offered us shall only be marginally beneficial to our economy." [sentence as published]

Sens. Herrera, Osmena and Alvarez batted for a renegotiation of the terms to include provisions on the fate of displaced Filipino workers from Clark Air Base and increased compensation.

The four solons joined their 11 colleagues who voted unconditionally last February against the extended stay of the American military facilities beyond September 16, or the expiration date of the present agreement.

As this developed, The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) yesterday issued a resolution calling for a renegotiation of the bases agreement and the replacement of Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus as head of the Philippine negotiating panel.

The TUCP asked President Aquino to "take the necessary steps" to renegotiate the agreement, with attention to the welfare and interests of Filipino base workers to be affected by the agreement.

Failures of RP [Republic of the Philippines] Panel

In a statement, the TUCP outlined the following "failures" of the RP panel:

—the $203 million direct annual compensation agreed upon is "too small an amount;

—the agreement does not contain "any commitment" from the U.S. for the "favourable resolution" of labor issues raised by the closure of Clark Air Base and the phasedown of Subic Naval Base;

—the RP panel "should have insisted for an agreement that is fair, equitable and reflective of the real value of the bases in protecting U.S. interests in the region"; and

—the RP panel "consciously and deliberately failed to include...the discussion and resolution of major base labor issues."

The shortcomings of the RP panel, the TUCP said, "reflects its weak and indecisive leadership," reason for calling for the ouster of Sec. Manglapus as head of the negotiating team.

Copies of the resolution were furnished by the TUCP to Mrs. Aquino and Congress for "immediate action," the TUCP said.

Compensation Issues Explained

HK2507104091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] In a news briefing at Malacanang, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus explained the issues related to the recently concluded negotiation regarding the U.S. military bases. According to him, the draft treaty has not been signed yet as many aspects are still under discussion by both sides. However, Manglapus explained the compensation aspect:

[Begin Manglapus recording in English] Beginning 1993 till the year 2001, we're getting only part of what we have asked for because of the reduction of the facilities that they are occupying. They no longer want to occupy Clark. However, the program review group will discuss additional appropriated portions such as additional ESF [Economic Support Fund], development assistance, and PL [Public Law] 480. [end recording]

Nuclear Weapons Transit Allowed

HK2507103791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] The new military bases agreement between the Philippines and the United States allows the free transit of nuclear and other nonconventional weapons in Subic Naval Base. It was reported that this proviso, is contained in the copy of the approved draft treaty for the military bases. Based on the draft treaty, the passage or visit by U.S. military airplanes or ships to the Philippines would not be considered as storage or installation of nuclear weapons. This will be treated under the existing procedures. The draft treaty will reportedly be signed before the end of the month then sbmitted to the Senate for ratification.

Saguisag on 'Heated Balloting'

HK2507120891 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Senator Rene Saguisag assured that the new military bases treaty will not be passed by the senate. In an interview with DZMM, Saguisag disclosed that his colleagues offered different views in opposition to the draft treaty. He expects heated balloting in relation to the issue. The senator maintained that almost all his colleagues in the Senate are outrightly rejecting the new bases agreement. Earlier, Senator Ernesto Herrera expressed strong opposition to the treaty because of the absence of a provision for the Filipino workers in the bases, adding that there is no reason for maintaining the military bases in the country.

Official: PRC Claims Total Spratlys Ownership

HK2307113591 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Jul 91

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] The People's Republic of China has claimed total ownership of all places in the Spratly Islands which is also claimed by six countries in Asia including the Philippines. This was stated by George Coquia, the legal adviser of foreign affairs, after his arrival from Bandung, Indonesia, where he attended a conference to discuss the Spratly Islands issue. According to Coquia, the PRC stated it owns the whole of the China Sea. The conference was attended by the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Brunei. Except for Brunei, the five countries claiming ownership of Spratlys have occupied certain areas on the disputed Spratlys. Coquia said the six countries claiming ownership agreed to discuss the issue without using force. The PRC said it is willing to explore Spratly Islands in a joint venture but their announcement of ownership will not change. The PRC has the biggest delegation to the conference. The Philippines, through Coquia, proposed that the claimant-countries should adopt a mechanism which is beneficial to all.

Visit of Japanese Prime Minister Reported

Nakayama Begins 3-Day Visit

OW2407141391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Manila, July 24 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived here Wednesday night from Kuala Lumpur for a three-day visit aimed at strengthening ties between Japan and the Philippines.

During his stay, Nakayama will meet with President Corazon Aquino and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, and visit volcano-ravaged areas near a major U.S. naval base, 80 kilometers northwest of Manila.

He was accompanied by Manglapus in the flight back from Kuala Lumpur where they attended the dialogue between members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its industrialized partners.

The last time a Japanese foreign minister visited the Philippines was in December 1987 when former Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno accompanied former Prime Minister Noburo Takeshita for the Japan-ASEAN summit meeting.

Nakayama's trip follows the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in May. Nakayama leaves for Tokyo on Friday morning.

Nakayama Meets President Aquino

OW2507110191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0958 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Manila, July 25 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Thursday Japan was pleased at the successful conclusion of negotiations between the Philippines and the United States on a new bases agreement.

Nakayama, who is on a 36-hour visit here, expressed Tokyo's position during his meeting with President Corazon Aquino at the Presidential Palace.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Nakayama said he had told Aquino that the Japanese Government recognizes the importance of the issue and appreciates the fact that a bases agreement has been completed.

On July 18, Filipino and American negotiators announced the continued stay of U.S. troops the next 10 years at Subic Bay naval station and the withdrawal in one year from volcano-devastated Clark Air Base.

But technical level discussions on unresolved points continue, Aquino said. A new agreement will have to be ratified by the 23-member Senate where at least 14 Senators have expressed opposition to the contents of the draft treaty.

Nakayama, who arrived in Manila from Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday, earlier visited Oolongapo, 80 kilometers northwest of Manila, to view the damage caused by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo.

In his meeting with Aquino, Nakayama expressed the Japanese people's sympathy for the victims of Mt. Pinatubo, and informed her of Tokyo's intention to give an additional 400,000 dollars in assistance.

A palace press statement said that Nakayama praised the government's "positive performance" in the first semester in implementing the economic stabilization program approved by the International Monetary Fund.

It said that Nakayama expressed his hope that the Philippine Government will "continue to exert its utmost efforts to further pursue economic stabilization and structural reforms."

Nakayama, whose visit follows that of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in May, leaves for Tokyo on Friday.

Nakayama told reporters that the U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region continues to remain important, since the new thinking in the Soviet Union has not reached the region.

During his bilateral talks with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, Nakayama reiterated these sentiments, adding that the U.S. presence is "indispensable," considering that tensions and distrust still prevail in the region, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

During the discussions between the two foreign ministers, the Philippine side also urged Japan to act quickly on the yen loan to the Philippines for 1992.

The 17th yen loan package for 1991 amounted to 120.04 billion yen or 926 million dollars.

In a confidential document, the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo said the Japanese Foreign Ministry plans to allocate 1.5 billion yen (10.7 million dollars) to the Philippines for the rehabilitation of areas devastated by Mt. Pinatubo.

The report said, however, that the release of the money must await evaluation by a Japanese Government research mission.

Japan To Set Up Cambodia Mission

OW2507053291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0513 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Manila, July 25 KYODO—Japan will set up an ambassador-level mission in Phnom Penh once the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC), chaired by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, has established its headquarters there, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told reporters in Manila on Thursday.

Nakayama indicated that Japan supports Sihanouk's leadership of the SNC and hopes the process to end the 12-year-old Cambodian civil war now will be accelerated.

The interim SNC is comprised of representatives from three resistance factions and the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government, and is expected to set up its headquarters in November.

In Manila for meetings with Philippine officials, Nakayama said that once the SNC headquarters are established in Phnom Penh, "Japan will dispatch a permanent ambassador-level representative" to the Cambodian capital.

Nakayama said the Japanese Government's stance is based on its support for Sihanouk and is in agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The Foreign Ministry plans to dispatch a delegation to Phnom Penh this month to prepare for setting up the Japanese mission there, said ministry officials, who described the eventual mission as a liaison office.

Yukio Imagawa, currently a minister with the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok, is likely to be Japan's first representative in the SNC liaison office, they said.

The liaison office will be elevated to an embassy once Cambodian peace is attained, elections are held, and the new government is established.

Among the conditions outlined for a Japanese mission in Phnom Penh, the officials said the SNC must function as a diplomatic window for Cambodia and should accept the leadership of Sihanouk.

The SNC, to ensure permanent peace in Cambodia, must guarantee suitable participation of the United Nations, they said.

Earlier this month, Australia named an ambassador to the SNC and France has announced plans to dispatch a representative, too.

China and the Soviet Union indicated during a meeting with ASEAN ministers last week that they will establish diplomatic ties with the SNC once the council's offices have been opened.

NDF Leader on 'Real State of the Nation'

HK2307113691 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] criticized the Aquino administration for opting to allow the people to face hardship instead of fighting against World Bank and IMF debt payment impositions.

According to Fr. Frank Hernandez, secretary general of the NDF, the country's situation now is worse than during the Marcos regime. He also said that the anti-people policies of the Aquino government are worse than the calamities that beset the country. The people have become poorer because 80 percent of Filipinos are living below the poverty line. The land reform program during the five-year rule of President Aquino has failed because only rich landowners and multinational companies were allowed to grab farmers' lands. Here are excerpts from the statement of Fr. Frank Hernandez of the NDF regarding the real state of the nation.

[Begin Hernandez recording] The Filipinos have not obtained anything during the five-years of the Aquino regime except anxiety and poverty. Instead of responding to the appeals of the large majority of the Filipino masses, she listened and gave in to the wishes of her kind—the Americans and Japanese who own the land. She would prefer to maintain high prices for oil and other commodities and to let the people pay high taxes. [end recording]

Editorials View Aquino's State-of-Nation Speech

HK2407064491 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Jul 91 p 6

[Editorial: "President Aquino Sums Up Her Legacy, Vows To Pass It On Through Clean Elections"]

[Text] President Aquino's state of the nation address given last Monday before the joint session of Congress dispensed with the usual plethora of details on the achievements of her government. By design, it omitted the trees to survey the forest. It offered a panoramic view of what the nation has undergone since the past five years, and even farther back to 1975—to the solitary cell of a martial law prisoner about to lose hope but who bravely held on because of his faith in God and in his people.

That act of courage and faith blossomed with People Power at EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] in 1986 and led, step by purposeful step, to the restoration of democratic institutions. There is no question that as a consequence, the Philippines is one of the freest peoples in the world today. In saying her valedictory to the Congress of the Philippines, whose term expires with her own on June 30, 1992, the President could speak with feeling about this legacy of democracy because it is true.

There is every reason for her to guard this legacy during the remainder of her term and to pass it on intact to the future. This can be done only through clean and free elections. She instructed the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police to make sure that this goal will be attained.

And then she promised to escort her successor to the Luneta grandstand, as of old, to his oath-taking as the new President of the Philippines. That ceremony, last seen in 1965, was symbolic of the traditional civility that once underpinned our political stability. If there was a single phrase descriptive of the entire speech, it was the President's commitment to effect "a peaceful transfer of power" at the end of her term.

Or course, as the President herself admitted, the nation's economic progress could be held hostage to the vagaries of fortune and indeed several times it was in the past two to three years. Just when the economy was poised for a powerful rebound, either a man-made catastrophe or an act of God supervened to halt or deflect the movement. Democratic institutions, moreover, have sometimes raised questions about the nation's governability.

President Aquino rightly asked her fellow leaders to build on the strengths of democracy and to spurn its weaknesses. Democracy is not a perscription for deadlock or indecision. It need not rest on the widest common denominator of moral indifference or political cowardice. Making democracy work so that it will not only protect individual freedom but also promote group discipline, effectiveness and productivity is a challenge that will continue to demand much of our leaders.

It was, on the whole, President Aquino's most moving address before a joint session of Congress. That this is also her last—her valedictory—evokes from us a renewed feeling of respect for this lady whose moral courage, guts and fortitude seem to assume a clearer dimension as she approaches the end of her term.

State-of-Nation Address Analyzed

HK2407053391 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 Jul 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Cory Did It Her Way"]

[Text] Whatever history's judgment may finally be of her presidency, Ms. Aquino made it quite clear in her valedictory before Congress last Monday that she herself had come to terms with her performance at the watch and was neither uncomfortable nor unhappy with the way things turned out, at least in those aspects she deemed essential. You might even say that there was more than a strain of self-satisfaction woven into the speech.

But what is quite unsettling is the facile way in which she bunched together opposing views and opinions as merely "popular" options that contrasted with the difficult decisions she had to make and which were impliedly wiser, more mature and responsible.

"I could have made it easier for myself if I had opted for the popular," she said before launching into an extended "could have" defense of some of the more controversial decisions of her administration.

It is essential, of course, that the highest official of the land be able to present cogent, sound and honest reasons for whatever decisions are made in the people's name. Because she acts for the widest constituency around, the expectation is that the decisions always reflect the thinking of a majority of those for whom she acts as much as it should seek to serve the welfare of the greater number.

However, the reasons she cited for her decisions on the foreign debt, the drafting of the 1987 Constitution, the oil price rollback, promotions in the military, among others, were mystifying for their outstanding obstinacy as much as for the great disparity between her position and people's express wishes on each issue.

The controversy over foreign debt was never a matter of merely adopting an obstinate position that would certainly invite retaliation. It was born out of grievous dissatisfaction with the government's unwillingness to consider any other course than that of meeting our obligations to keep our credit standing so we could continue borrowing from the very same sources. The more sober proposals for some form of debt relief simply asked government negotiators to convince creditors of our proven credit worthiness, and therefore see the long-term value of providing the kind of temporary concessions that would ensure our continued economic health. No one in government ever took this option seriously.

Despite the liberties that have been taken with certain provisions of the 1987 Constitution over the past five years, the President remains convinced that an appointed commission was a better way to get the Charter written and in place at the earliest possible time.

The oil price rollback apparently behind her, the President dismissed it with just a short paragraph, warning that hasty rollbacks only take larger tolls on the economy and the people in the long run. No mention was made of the toll the OPSF [Oil Price Stabilization Fund] took or of how larger reductions could still be made.

The President's valedictory last Monday was a moving and eloquent summation of her perceptions of what her presidency was all about. Her voice was heard in most of the speech, but there were parts where other voices clearly intruded and we found we could not agree with the message at all.

Speech Called 'Demagoguery'

HK2407051491 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 24 Jul 91 p 10

["Turn of Events" Column by Francisco S. Tatad: "Well Worth the Applause"]

[Text] President Aquino gave a prize-winning performance in her State of the Nation address on Monday, but it takes very little to remind us that this is not Broadway. A well-crafted speech may one day earn a citation from the Manila Rotary Club or the Catholic Mass Media Awards, but even the best-crafted speech must bow to reality. A state of the nation address that does not tell anyone anything about the state of the nation is only worth its entertainment value. When its main burden is to justify five years of inaction, wrong decisions and poor choices by saying "I could have made things easier for myself if I had opted for the 'popular'," then it becomes—no matter how mellifluous it may sound—pure and simple demagoguery. There is enough evidence to show that many times the President chose what was personally gratifying and popular rather than what was right.

The nation has been ill-governed since 1986—ungoverned, others say. If there is to be finally an admission that mistakes have been committed, it is not enough to simply say "God knows, we have made mistakes. But surely our objective is right—the improvement of our people's lives." Humility and candor require some mention of where these mistakes have been committed and why, and how the administration plans to correct them in the last few months left of its term.

The President's preoccupation with democracy is a noble thing, and most of us share it, but our democracy—or what passes for it—is the Filipino people's gift to themselves, not the Aquino administration's gift to them. Likewise, the growth of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and cooperatives is the result of non-government initiative, usually aided by the Church and external NGOs and funding institutions, and Mrs. Aquino's attempt to claim them as part of her Kabisig [Partnership] movement is an ill-disguised attempt to claim credit for work done by others. Similarly, the barangay, which allows people to participate in daily government at the village level, is a legacy of the "Marcos dictatorship," rather than an invention of Mrs. Aquino's "newly restored democracy."

In trying to explain away her past mistakes, the President attempts to make short shift of so grave an offense as the dismantling of the Constitution. Listen to this: "I could have called for an elected constitutional convention. Surveys showed that an elected convention was the popular choice to draft a new constitution. But I believed it was more important to draft a constitution and submit it for ratification in the shortest possible time, and hold elections immediately. The people and the army needed a fully elected government and a constitution around which to rally in defense of freedom.

"I could not afford the luxury of the popular by waiting out the endless deliberations of an elected convention, like the 1971 Constitutional Convention. And besides, what was so great about that experience? After a year of talk and scandal, the final draft was prepared in Malacanang, approved by the frightened Convention, and ratified in a fraudulent plebiscite."

Because the Constitution is the most important organ in establishing a constitutional government, these passages are necessarily the most unfortunate and unforgivable in the President's text. Every part contains a contradiction. If "people power" rather than anything else had brought her to the presidency, what gave her the right to decide that the people who were good enough to bring her to the presidency were not good enough to draft a new Constitution? And what is the superiority of her chosen process to Pascual Racuyal's ludicrous proposal that he be commissioned to draft a new constitution for a minimal fee of P300 [Philippine pesos] (at the old rate of P2 to $1)?

If she believed it was important to hold elections immediately after the controversial snap elections of February 1986, why then did she not submit herself to new elections instead of simply asking her personally handpicked commissioners to give her a term that extends to June 30, 1992?

If she believed that the 1971 Constitutional Convention ultimately lost out to Malacanang in preparing the final draft of the 1973 Constitution and that it was ratified in a fraudulent plebiscite, why then did she not make sure that this time, during her watch, a freely elected convention retained complete control of the constitution-making process from beginning to end, and that the draft document was ratified in a clean and honest plebiscite? Why did she do what not even the past "dictator" did—which was to create an appointive constitutional commission to draft the new Constitution and ratify it in a plebiscite in which the opposition did not have the right to inspect and verify the votes?

And if she believes so much in the Constitution, why has she consistently violated it to the point where one begins to wonder whether it still exists? Clearly, Mrs. Aquino chose what was easy and expedient for her, with disastrous results. This has produced a constitution that is a creature of her government, whereas the rule (not surveys) says the Constitution must create the government. This is her first fundamental mistake, and this admits of no explanations or excuses.

Now, as the end of her term nears, she promises us clean and honest elections in 1992. This ought to fill us with joy and rejoicing, we who long for clean and honest elections. But something prevents us from being euphoric.

"I will not preside as Commander-in-Chief," she says, "Over the kind of military that cheated the opposition in 1978, and me in 1986...I specifically charge Chief of Staff Lisandro Abadia and PNP [Philippine National Police] Director General Cesar Nazareno with the responsibility to assure clean and honest elections. While they may not fear my displeasure because I will not be President by then, they will face the judgment of the disappointed country."

What she deliberately fails to mention here is the fact that she presided over the elections that cheated the Grand Alliance for Democracy's senatorial candidates in 1987, and that rigging elections is not necessarily exclusively a military affairs; a partisan Commission on Elections and a citizen's arm like the 1987 Namfrel [National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections], aided by a servile bureaucracy and a captive media, can rig a national election even without the participation of the Armed Forces.

The best line in Mrs. Aquino's address is her statement that she does not hope to report to Congress next year because she will no longer be president by then. That is something at least half of the nation has been waiting for since the day she became president. She has not carved it in stone, but that she said it where she said it is sufficient. If only for this, her State of the Nation address deserves its 21 rounds of applause.

Catholic Bishops Take Strong Political Stance

HK2407054591 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 24 Jul 91 p 1

[By Lito Zulueta]

[Text] The powerful Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday made a bleak assessment of the democracy revived during the Church-backed revolutin in 1986 and hinted that it found the Aquino administration wanting.

In a pastoral letter to be read this Sunday in all Catholic churches, the bishops urged the faithful to participate fully in the 1992 elections to undo the flaws of transition.

"We have seen the wastage of our nation's resources and the perversion of democratic principles in the disservice done by those individuals who have proven themselves unworthy of the office entrusted to them," they said.

Although the pastoral letter sounded like an indictment of President Aquino, the bishops said they will continue to support her in the spirit of "critical cooperation."

The letter was finalized a day after the President admitted in her last State-of-the-Nation address before Congress that she had committed mistakes, but said they were done in all sincerity and with the people's interest foremost in her mind.

In related developments:

—The bishops, in a belated move, urged the government to reduce oil prices but left to government the determination of new price levels.

—The bishops also rejected a request by former first lady Imelda Marcos for them to intercede with the government to allow the remains of her husband, former president Marcos, to be shipped home from Honolulu.

In what may be an indication of great Church involvement in politics, the CBCP pastoral letter urged the faithful to "evangelize" politics.

The letter quoted a passage from the January 1991 Second Plenary Council whose documents, still to be disclosed to the public, are being scrutinized by the Vatican.

That particular passage hinted of great Church say in politics, thus:

"In the Philippines today, given the moral perception that politics has become an obstacle to integral development, the urgent necessity is for the lay faithful to participate more actively, with singular competence and integrity in political affairs."

Naga City Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, outgoing CBCP president, said the bishops would come up with a pastoral statement in January next year—or four months before the May elections—that would guide Catholics on what qualities to look for in a candidate.

Vigan Archbishop Orlando Quevedo said the bishops would "conceptualize" national and local (diocesan) issues so that the faithful would vote on the basis of issues, not personalities.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Teodoro Bacani said that in the case of Manila, the Church's special interest is the passage of the urban land reform bill to alleviate the plight of the homeless.

But they all emphasized that they would not endorse any one candidate or party.

In their letter, the bishops said genuine changes in society can only be attained by "a wise, informed and formed electorate" that rejects the "politics of payoffs, patronage and personalities."

"For this reason, we must commit ourselves to a program aimed at raising the level of our voters' political judgement," it said.

The letter also urged the poor to reject politicians who are offering to buy their votes or "else have their poverty perpetuated."

This is a far cry from the bishops call in the 1986 snap elections, in which they urged the electorate to accept bribes but vote according to their conscience.

To create an environment for free and honest elections, the bishops said they would organize their parishes and basic ecclesiastical communities into task forces to oversee the polls as well as guide the electorate.

Toward this end, Quevedo also said they would continue their support for the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

In another statement on the plight of the poor, the bishops comforted the victims of Mt. Pinatubo and lauded efforts by Catholics and non-Catholics to assist them.

To alleviate the plight of the poor, the bishops asked government "to lower the price of fuel, to lower the price of basic commodities, to lower the prices of things which the poor need to live."

"But this is not enough," they added. "Our mission demands that we lift our people from dehumanizing poverty."

Their statement came days after the Iglesia ni Cristo [INC] had called off its protest rally intended to press the government to lower oil prices.

But Legaspi said their call was not meant to compete with the INC's, explaining. "This should not be taken in the context of a power struggle but of service."

At the same time, Legaspi said Mrs. Marcos wrote him last July 17 to ask the CBCP's help to convince the government to allow her husband's remains to be shipped home.

Mrs. Marcos, according to her letter released by the CBCP, said that Hawaii state laws require that after Oct. 1, her husband's remains, now housed in the family mausoleum in Honolulu, be buried in the community grave.

"This (burying Marcos in the Philippines) is a filial duty and an act of mercy with my family, which I, as a devoted Catholic Christian must carry out in charity and love," she wrote Legaspi.

But Legaspi rejected her request because in the minds of many Filipinos, the issue "is inextricably entangled with political, social and economic issues dealing with the past, present and future."

Controversy Over De Villa Appointment Continues

De Villa on Political Pressure

HK2507062291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 25 Jul 91 pp 1, 10

[Text] Newly appointed Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa yesterday admitted he is caught in the middle of political forces positioning for victory in next year's elections.

De Villa also admitted his appointment as defense secretary became controversial because of his association with his predecessor, Fidel V. Ramos, who is aiming for the presidential nomination of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP].

De Villa was at the Senate for the hearings of the Commission on Appointments' defense committee.

"Perhaps, I am being caught between political forces fighting for position," De Villa told reporters.

De Villa's appointment came under fire from a group of LDP congressmen. The congressmen are known to be supporters of Speaker Ramon V. Mitra, Ramos' chief rival for the LDP presidential nomination.

The appointment of De Villa raised apprehensions that Ramos, who is also a former Armed Forces chief of staff would use the military to advance his political ambitions.

But De Villa said he would not participate in partisan activities and would strictly adhere to President Aquino's order for him to stay neutral in next year's elections.

"I have, as I said, made a pledge. I even said that I would do everything to ensure that the military remains apolitical. What else do you want me to do except make this promise? ... Beyond this commitment, we will just have to see when the election occurs," he said.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, one of the most vocal critics of De Villa in the Senate, proposed that the CA [Commission on Appointments] committee on defense act immediately on the appointment of De Villa.

Maceda said he is certain De Villa would face rejection in the CA.

"The CA should reject him (De Villa) outright so that a new one will be appointed immediately," Maceda told reporters after his committee's hearing.

"The hearings will drag on for three or four months and in the recess he is reappointed again when it is very clear that the sentiments of the great majority of the CA had already turned them down," he said.

President Aquino has at least two options to avert a rejection of De Villa in the CA. She could either not submit it for confirmation and allow De Villa to hold office in an acting capacity or she could take her chance in the CA and reappoint De Villa if he is rejected.

But De Villa said he was assured of support by Senate President and CA Chairman Jovito Salonga.

"Senate President Salonga informed me personally that he is supporting my appointment and in case there is a tie (on the voting), he will vote in my favor," said De Villa.

Commission 'Firm' in Opposition

HK2507100991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Jul 91

[By Dick Sinchongco, DZRH Unit No. 6]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has failed to convince the congressmen who are members of the Commission on Appointments [CA] to confirm the nomination of retired General Renato de Villa as the new secretary of defense. The president met with members of the House of Representatives, who are also members of the bicameral Commission on Appointments, to discuss the appointment of De Villa to the defense post. She stood pat on her appointment of De Villa to replace the resigned Ramos in the top defense position. The congressmen comprising the house contingent in the CA also stood firm in their opposition to De Villa's nomination. It is said that a compromise agreement on the nomination of the former armed forces chief would be struck between the president and House members of the CA.

In an interview with Malacanang reporters, Miguel Romero, the Commission's vice chairman, explained that:

[Begin recording in English] [Romero] We will discuss this as a body. As members of the CA, we have to sit down among ourselves without [word indistinct] the house contingent. We will have to discuss this, the CA as a body should have been referred to by the chairman of the CA, which is Senate President Salonga, to the committee on defense headed by Senator Tamano.

[Reporter] There's no limit to the president's appointment of a bypassed appointee or nominee?

[Romero] If this goes on and on, De Villa will be appointed on and on until the president's term expires. [end recording]

President Aquino held the meeting due to heavy criticism against De Villa's nomination from house members. The congressmen maintain that a civilian must be assigned to the defense establishment .

Editorial Views Appointment

HK2507063691 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 25 Jul 91 p 4

[Editorial: "A circus in the making"]

[Text] Twelve congressmen who are members of the Commission on Appointments have said they will oppose the confirmation of retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Renato S. de Villa as defense secretary when the commission meets to consider his nomination next week. A ranking House official, Speaker Pro Tempore and commission vice chairman Antonio V. Cuenco, said the congressmen will block De Villa's confirmation because his appointment violates the constitutional provision which calls for civilian supremacy over the military.

Cuenco even had a colorful way of putting it. "I'm afraid na talagang patay na ang confirmation ni De Villa [that De Villa's confirmation will not be approved]," he said. Another legislator decried de Villa's "ineptitude" during his tenure as AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, giving as instances the coup attempts and the killing of a brigadier general during a Zamboanga City hostage drama in 1989.

Speaker Ramon V. Mitra has placed himself on record as being against a military man, not necessarily De Villa, taking over the top defense post to bolster the principle of civilian control over the military, and has signified his intention to muster his House assets to block De Villa's confirmation.

From the time of President Roxas right after the United States granted ndependence to the Philippines in 1946, secretaries of national defense had always been civilians. The long tradition was broken only in 1987 when Juan Ponce Enrile was fired by President Aquino and Rafael M. Ileto, a retired AFP general, appointed in his place. The following year, when Fidel V. Ramos retired as AFP chief of staff, Ms. Aquino appointed him to the defense department where he served until he resigned earlier this month to prepare for the 1992 elections.

Mitra and his House colleagues certainly present valid arguments. But the thing is they have scarcely disguised their motives. In raising the issue, Mitra and Company have left themselves open to charges that they are being motivated by political designs. Everybody knows De Villa is a close Ramos ally. Critics may even be right when they say that he acts and thinks like Ramos, that he is Ramos' clone. One can, therefore, safely presume that in attacking De Villa, the real target of Mitra and Company is Ramos, Mitra's principal opponent in the race to be the ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino's official candidate for president.

Ramos' takeover of the defense portfolio in January 1988 wasn't too long ago that people have not forgotten what Mitra's stand was on his appointment then. In fact, Ramos, the hero of the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] Revolt and the man perceived as President

Aquino's savior during several coup tries, breezed through the Commission on Appointments hearings. Except for a futile attempt to link him to graft cases and to portray him as a good soldier but an inept administrator, his nomination was quickly confirmed. Nobody, not Mitra or his close ally Cuenco, or anybody else, raised the issue of the constitutional mandate on civilian supremacy over the military then.

So let us please not bore the people by attempting to create a political circus during the Commission on Appointments hearings. Let De Villa be judged on his own merits. If he is found fit to act as defense secretary, as President Aquino believes he is, then he should be confirmed on that basis alone.

At the Senate yesterday, De Villa could only mutter resignedly that he was being squeezed by two political forces. He promised, however, that he would be neutral in the 1992 campaign. As an officer and a gentleman, De Villa should be given the chance to prove his word.

Tribal Communities Form New Political Party

HK2307071391 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Jul 91 p 1, 16

[Text] Leaders of the nation's tribal communities met yesterday to prepare the groundwork for the formation of a new political party called Partido ng mga Katutubong Piliino [Party of the Philippine Tribes] with former assemblyman Joseph Banghulot of Zamboanga del Sur as interim chairman.

Former Ifugao governor Juan Dait, the group's spokesman, said the tribal leaders decied to band themselves into a well-knit political party to protect the country's cultural minorities and rally their four million voters to actively campaign for candidates—from the presidential to the local level—in the 1992 elections.

Dait sid there are over 12 million cultural minorities in the country including the Muslims, adding it was ironical that the group does not have any sectoral representation in the Philippine Congress.

At their second organizational meeting at the Sulu Hotel in Quezon City, the organizing group deplored the government's alleged neglect of the cultural minorities and expressed wonder how the disabled had acquired a representative in Rep. Arturo Borjal even without a constitutional mandate.

Banghulot, interim chairman, said the 1987 Constitution provides for a sectoral represenation for women, labor, farmer, youth, urban poor and indigenous minorities. "There was no mention of the disabled in the Philippine Charter," he said.

The group said it will actively campaign in the 1992 elections as well as help in the registration of voters in the region, provincial and municipal levels.

"History will judge this government for violating a constitutional mandate commanding it to appoint a sectoral representative for the cultural minorities," Banghulot said.

The group will hold the first national tribal communities congress from Oct. 16-18 which hopes to gather some 5,000 tribal leaders at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)

Military Turns Down Proposal for Naval Academy

HK2507065291 Quezon City MALAYA in English 25 Jul 91 p 1

[By Romy Tangbawan]

[Text] Armed forces officials urged yesterday the Senate to junk Sen. Ernesto Herrera's (LP) [Liberal Party] proposal to create a naval academy, saying it is expensive and not feasible.

Rear Admiral Mariano Dumancas, Flag-Officer-in-Command, told the Senate defense committee that a naval academy would waste scarce resources considering the small size of the Navy.

Gen. Lisandro Abadia, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, said the creation of a naval academy would also encourage others to demand an exclusive academy for the Air Forces, which the government cannot afford.

Abadia said the AFP will instead introduce a tri-service program at the Philippine Military Academy to adequately train officers of the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

Under the plan, cadets will undergo their usual training for the first three years at the academy in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. On the fourth year, cadets will undergo specialized field training.

Panel To Consider Foreign Bank Creditor Offer

HK2407061791 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 24 Jul 91 pp 1, 6

[By Rene de los Reyes]

[Text] Foreign bank creditors have proposed to lend the Philippines $200 million and reduce its debt-service burden by $150 million, but the country's debt negotiators are still hoping the group will raise the entire $250 million in new money the government had requested, Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. said yesterday.

Cuisia told lawmakers who are members of the Foreign Debt Council that the debt panel would have to carefully consider the latest offer of the bank group, which is an improvement from the previous ones.

A major consideration is the dire need of the government for the entire new-money package it had requested fo cover the financing gap until the end of 1992.

Rep. Margarito Teves, a member of the joint executive-legislative debt council, said the government has until Aug. 20 to consider the offer and secure an agreement with the bank creditor group.

According to Teves, the International Monetary Fund, which had originally wanted Manila to secure the agreement before July 22, had extended the deadline to Aug. 20.

Cuisia said the government is wary of accepting the package as is because many more foreign banks could choose to participate in the debt-service reduction exercise than provide new loans.

He feared that the Philippines could end up getting a smaller amount of cash, which would be of little help in bridging a projected financing gap of $2.6 billion for 1991 and 1992.

But the banks have assured the government that more banks will participate in either program than if the government were to insist on a purely new-money deal, said Cuisia.

Teves said the foreign bank group prposed to carry out the debt-service reduction by having the Philippines exchange old money bonds for new bonds that will temporarily carry lower interest rates—perhaps from for to five years. The interest rates on those bonds would revert to market rates at the end of the period.

Cuisia said if the government does agree to the proposal, the debt panel would try to negotiate for longer periods—probably five to six years—for the temporary interest-rate reduction.

He said the government had only three alternatives in the matter:

—Reject the proposal outright, insist on a purely new money arrangement, but see fewer participants in the exercise.
—Agree to the package, but face the possibility of a lower level of foreign-exchange inflow with which to cover the financing gap through 1992.
—Agree to a wider menu of options that would include debt-stock reduction, i.e., a debt buy-back arrangement, for which the government lacks the resources.

Teves said the two sides would work toward a middle ground and reach a compromise accord for presentation to the IMF executive board, which meets on or about Aug. 20 to review the status of the government's economic stabilization program.

The lawmaker said the government faces greater pressure next year than this year to generate more foreign loans and aid, and that the debt negotiating panel would have to try to get as much cash commitment as possible.

Cuisia said the temporary interest-rate reduction scheme had been put forward by J. P. Morgan Guaranty Corp. and backed by Japanese banks.

Teves said the latest round of talks between the bank group and the Philippine debt panel bogged down over a proposal to convert the Philippines' old money bonds into new non-restructurable bonds.

He said the group had proposed to convert the debts at a higher ratio of $4 of old debt for every $1 of new debt, but the Philippine side had stuck to its request of a $1:55 radio. With the non-restructurable bonds, the government would not be able to request the banks to reschedule these new debts and would be obliged to pay them on schedule.

Teves said the negotiators are now back to square one, but they have greater flexibility now with the extension of the deadline by the IMF.

The Philippines owes commercial banks and financial institutions over $11 billion, more than one-third of its total external debt of $9 billion.

The debt panel had previously requested the banks to provide new money of $250 million under a complementary financing scheme with the Asian Development Banks.

Talks on the scheme had fallen through when the banks insisted that an independent bank be designated as paying agent to guard against default by Manila. The Asian Development Bank had balked at the idea, saying this would deviate from previous co-financing schemes it had set up.

International Reserves Reportedly Increase

HK2507063391 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 25 Jul 91 pp 1, 5

[By Ma Gertrudes M. Chavez]

[Text] The Central Bank's [CB] net international reserves (NIR) increased to $875 million as of July 8 or $1.223 billion above the adjusted floor of negative $348 million, CB data show.

Last June 30, the NIR reached $796 million, equivalent to $1.279 billion above the adjusted floor of negative $483 million.

The NIR is the difference between the CB's growth international reserves (GIR) and its short-term liabilities. It is reflective of the CB's short-term debt service capacity. The NIR is one of six performanca criteria being monitored y the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to determine substantial compliance with the country's economic stabilization program.

Monetary authorities usually set a floor for the NIR on a quarterly basis. This is normally adjusted for any deficiency or surplus in new money disbursements and Paris Club rescheduling of principal and interest relative to programmed amounts. In the course of establishing these floors, monthly levels for the CB-NIR are estimated to be consistent with the balance-of-payments projections as of January 18, 1991.

The growth in NIR (or the difference between the actual NIR as of July 8 and the adjusted floor for end-July) can be traced to lower debt service payments by the CB amounting to $44 million compared to the expected disbursements of $131 million for July.

In addition, the CB's NIR has been boosted by huge dollar net purchases totalling $1.174 billion from January to June. Programmed purchases for the period amount to only $54 million for the same period.

Even as the NIR level has so far been on track, reserve money [RM] (or broadly the amount of cash in circulation) has exceeded target as of July 15.

Inflationary

A high level of RM is not desirable because of its inflationary impact on the economy. When RM shoots up, the CB resorts to open market operations to soak up liquidity in the system.

RM (also being monitored by the IMF) during the period expanded to P117.1 billion [Philippine pesos], or P5.9 billion higher than the end-June 1991 level of P111.2 billion.

The July 15 RM was also P4.8 billion higher than the indicative target of P112.3 billion for end of the month.

The increase in the RM during the period was ascribed mainly to the expansionary impact of the P11.4 billion withdrawal by the National Government (NG) of its deposits with the CB.

This has more than offset the P2.1 billion contractionary effect of the decline in the CB's net foreign asset position and a P1.8 billion increases in open market operations.

Earlier, the Philippines almost failed to meet the RM target for the June test period due to the non-inclusion of the banking system's reserve deficiencies. The end-June level of P111.2 billion would have to be adjusted upwards, CB Governor Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. said.

The IMF has doused all doubt on this criterion, noting that the Philippines "has substantially complied with reserve money targets" for the review period.

Thailand

Asa Returns, Previews Jan ASEAN Summit

BK2407134391 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Statement to reporters by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin; given at Bangkok International Airport upon his return from Kuala Lumpur on 24 July—recorded]

[Text] It was agreed earlier that there would be an ASEAN summit in January. One of the topics at the summit will be the proposal of our prime minister on the establishment of a free trade zone in ASEAN by the end of this century. This proposal was brought up during his meeting with the Singapore prime minister. Our finance minister has been assigned to study the proposal, and he has called a meeting to do this on 29 July. Several economic ministers have been invited to the meeting. After that a paper will be prepared and our officials will probaby have to be sent to explain the concept to other countries. I think the October meeting of ASEAN economic ministers will discuss the concept, after which it will be submitted to the summit in Singapore.

Another topic is the ASEAN mechanism issue, a preliminary study having already been conducted on it by the so-called permanent five members of ASEAN. The study concerns ways of enhancing ASEAN efficiency. The study will be given to a working group for further refining, and I think it will eventually be submitted to the ASEAN summit.

'Massive Search' for Slayers of Saudi Diplomats

BK2507033991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jul 91 pp 1,2

[Excerpt] Two police teams left for eastern provinces yesterday evening as a massive search began for the suspects in the controversial and politically sensitive murders last year of three Saudi diplomats, informed sources said yesterday.

The teams departed from the Central Investigation Bureau [CIB] headquarters around 5 pm and headed for Chon Buri and Chachoengsao, said the sources, who asked not to be identified.

The teams reportedly comprised CIB and crime suppression policemen.

Another police source said yesterday that three Pakistanis were the prime suspects in the killings that have badly damaged Thai-Saudi relations.

The source identified the suspected gang leader as Bunia Mohammad. He and his two Pakistani accomplices were believed to have fled to Pakistan, added the source.

The gangsters had been preying on Arab tourists in Patthaya, especially those from Saudi Arabia, according to the source. Victims were allegedly cheated, extorted and some murdered.

Bunia Mohammad was married to a Thai woman who stays in Chachoeng-sao, said the source.

Top government officials, meanwhile, yesterday warned police that they must not repeat their mistake that had led to the arrest of a suspect who was last week acquitted by the court.

The senior officials were referring to the arrest last year of Suchat Halabi, whom the Criminal Court acquitted because of weak police evidence and postal office records showing that he was in the South when the murders took place in Bangkok.

"They (police) must be very careful," said Deputy Prime Minister Pow Sarasin. "Once suspects are arrested, they must not be released again."

Interior Minister Itsaraphong Nunphakdi described progress in the investigation as "satisfactory", but warned police against arresting scapegoats.

"I have told the police not to arrest wrong suspecs or scapegoats again," Itsaraphong said.

PM's Office Minister M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsri said in a separate interview that the killings have damaged Thai-Saudi relations partly because "we have not been speaking in a straightforward manner".

The problem with Saudi Arabia, which has suspended visa processing for Thai workers in an apparent bid to pressure Bangkok to speed up the investigation, could be settled "if there is no cheating and no cover-up", the minister said. [passage omitted]

Burmese Students Not Given Refugee Status

BK2407125091 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] According to Niwat Phibun, the deputy permanent secretary of the Interior Ministry for security affairs, Thailand cannot give refugee status to Burmese students who fled to its territory as they demanded during a recent demonstration in front of ESCAP [the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific]. This is because the students did not qualify for the status right from the beginning. The UN High Commissioner for Refugee office's agreement with Thailand covers only Indochinese refugees, and providing refugee status to other citizens of other nations is a complicated issue. Niwat also points out that it is Thailand's sovereign right to make its own decision on the refugee status.

Key Features of Draft Constitution Highlighted

BK2507013191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 JUL 91 p 8

["Blueprint for a Better Government? Thaweesak Sriparn Highlights Key Features of the Draft Constitution Which has Just Been Completed"]

[Text] The newly completed draft constitution has come under strong criticisms from certain quarters that its design was based on a "blueprint" drawn up by the National Peace Keeping Council. But members on the Constitutional Drafting Committee have assured the public that the draft (though some of its details have yet to be thrashed out) includes enough new mechanisms to maintain political stability.

Most notable among the new mechanisms are the Constitutional Committee, the Senate, and the ombudsman appointed by Parliament.

Also attracting a great deal of attention is the provisional clause at the end of the draft constitution that retains the power of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], including the de facto absolute power under Article 27 of the current interim Constitution. In effect, the provisional clauses will enable the NPKC to stay in power until an elected House of Representatives begins to convene—and many years beyond that point, according to some critics.

The new Parliament has an elected House of Representatives and an appointed Senate. The House comprises 360 MPs, an increase of three from the previous House.

The House speaker is president of Parliament and presides over every joint parliamentary session. Under the previous Constitution, the Senate President held this ceremonial post.

The minimum age of eligible voters will be lowered from 20 to 18 years. Deaf-mute persons, who were not eligible to vote under the previous constitution, are eligible to vote.

Anyone who has his assets seized by the Sit Committee is disqualified from standing in every election for life. Those summoned by the anti-graft body to clear themselves may run in the next general election if there is no final verdict before the election date. If they were elected but the committee subsequently found them guilty of amassing wealth through illegal means, the Constitutional Tribunal will decide whether to terminate their House membership. The same is applicable to anyone found guilty of corruption by the Counter Corruption Commission.

Candidates of a political party will stand as individuals and not as a team of their party in a constituency. Many constituencies will elect between four to seven MPs [members of parliament]. In the previous constitution, the maximum House seats in a constituency was three. The main reason for the enlarged constituencies is to deter vote-buying as a candidate will have to bribe a much larger number of eligible voters to ensure his or her election in a larger constituency; at the same time other candidates have a better chance of squeezing through to the House when more seats are available.

Based on the population size, a province that can have no more than seven MPs will constitute a single constituency; if it can have up to eight, then it will be divided into two constituencies of four MPs each.

However, the NPKC is known to favour team candidacy in which candidates from one party stand in a constituency as a team and are chosen as a team. In the draft constitution, voters may still vote a split ticket, choosing candidates from different parties to fill all the seats in contest in their respective constituencies.

Each party must field candidates to contest for at least one-third of all the House seats, which is 120. Under the previous Constitution a party must compete for at least half the number of House seats. The new lower number of compulsory seats to be contested benefits smaller parties which in the past had to hire students to represent them and meet the requirement.

The House convenes in two sessions each year. The first is open for all general matters, including interpellations and no-confidence debates while the second is devoted to law-making activities. Under the previous Constitution, the House held only a single annual session.

In order to hold a no-confidence debate against the Cabinet or individual ministers, the motion thereof must be endorsed by at least one-fifth of all the MPs if it is called during the first session, and one-third if it is called in the second session. Also during the second session, a call for the House to take up some issue not relating to legislation must have the support of at least one-third of all the MPs.

Radio and television stations transmitting live broadcasts of debates in Parliament are immune from all the lawsuits that may arise from whatever a particular parliamentarian has said. But the immunity does not cover the parliamentarian who deliberately slanders a third party outside Parliament during a live broadcast. Parliamentarians have full immunity only when their debates are not being broadcast by the electronic media.

The number of senators must be no more than three-fourths that of the MPs, which is 270. The minimum age for a senator is 40, previously it was 35. Government officials and military officers may become senators without having to quit their government and military jobs.

Instead of being handpicked by a prime minister and other politicians in power, the senators will be chosen from a pool of nominees five times the size of the Senate membership, in this case 1,350 nominees. The Constitutional Committee will select the nominees from all walks of life; the nominees will in turn elect 270 senators among their own number. Members of political parties are not qualified to join this pool.

The full term of senators is six years, but half of them will be replaced through the drawing of lots after every three years by new appointees (previously one-third of the senators were replaced every two years). Also after every three years, the Senate President will be replaced.

A Constitutional Committee, comprising nine members, must be formed within 30 days after the promulgation of the new constitution. The House, the Senate, the Cabinet, and the Judicial Commission each nominates two members. The National Assembly will act on behalf of the House and the NPKC on behalf of the Senate in nominating the first committee members. The eight nominees will jointly select a ninth member who serves as committee chairman.

The Parliament President will submit the nine names for royal appointment to form the Constitution Committee. The committee's term is eight years. After that a new committee will be formed by the same procedures, but with direct participation of both the House and the Senate in office at that time. None of the committee members can be reappointed after completing their terms.

Members of political parties, government officials and military officers, owners and employees of profit-making businesses are not qualified for appointment to this highly prestigeous body.

Apart from playing the important role in the selection of senators, the Constitutional Committee will also supervise the general election by sending impartial groups to monitor election campaigns in various constituencies. The committee will investigate credible charges of election fraud and vote-buying and report its findings within 90 days after the election to the Constitutional Tribunal for a final verdict on the House membership of each MP in question.

Another innovation is the Parliament-appointed ombudsman in charge of overseeing all government agencies and state enterprises on behalf of Parliament. The ombudsman may appoint a yet unspecified number of assistants to help him or her. The ombudsman's term is five years and it is non-renewable.

The ombudsman will also handle major complaints of the public or parliamentarians against a government agency or state enterprise and report findings to the ministry to which the agency or state enterprise belongs. An annual report of the ombudsman's activities will also be submitted to Parliament in March of every year.

The ombudsman will in turn be supervised by the Constitutional Committee. The committee may recommend Parliament to remove the ombudsman from office in case it has concrete evidence of serious wrongdoings. A two thirds vote of Parliament (the combined number of MPs and senators), in this case 420 of the 630 parliamentarians, is needed to replace the ombudsman.

MPs as well as government officials and military officers may concurrently hold Cabinet posts. But MPs who become ministers cannot vote in any legislative session, nor can they vote at the end of a no-confidence debate. This provision was designed to resemble a "separation of powers" between the legislature and the executive branch. Some military leaders on the NPKC would like to bar MPs from holding Cabinet posts, or at least to resign their House membership for good before accepting Cabinet posts.

For the first time, the qualifications of a minister included having a bachelor's degree as the minimum. But this does not apply to former ministers.

The qualifications of a prime minister remains basically the same as in the previous constitution. In other words, bureaucrats and military officers—not necessarily

MPs—may rise to the premiership; but first they must resign from their official or military posts.

The new Constitutional Tribunal will have 10 members, instead of seven like in the past. Four of them—the Parliament president, the Senate president, the Dika (Supreme Court) chief justice and the prosecutor general are ex-officio members of the tribunal; Parliament nominates six other experts.

The tribunal needs the presence of at least five of its members to form a quorum for every decision-making meeting.

Amending the new constitution will be harder than in the past. A constitutional amendment needs the endorsement of at least one-third of all the members of Parliament, in this case 210 parliamentarians, to be accepted for presentation to a joint parliamentary session. Senators cannot independently propose any amendment, but they may join MPs in submitting one. In the previous constitution, only the MPs could propose the constitutional amendments.

To pass the first reading, at least two-thirds of the parliamentarians with a total of 420 votes, must endorse the amendment. The final reading of the amendment also needs the support of at least two-thirds of the vote; previously such an amendment required the support of only half of the total Parliament vote.

The provisional clauses include Articles 18-24 and 27 of the interim Constitution concerning the NPKC, the Privy Council and the absolute power for dealing with national emergencies, etc. These clauses will stay in effect until Parliament convenes its first meeting.

The next general election must be held within 120 days after the promulgation of the new constitution.

The 270 senators must be chosen before the general election is held. The senators' term will begin at the same time as the MPs'

The draft constitution is under a final review by the Constitutional Drafting Committee. The committee wants to submit a final draft to the National Assembly by August 15.

How long the National Assembly will take to scrutinize the draft constitution is not yet known. But what concerns politicians and interested observers more is the question of who will be appointed to an ad hoc committee formed to examine the draft in detail and propose changes to it.

Draft Comes Under Fire

BK2507031791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 JUL 91 pp 1,2

["New Constitution: Who's It For?"]

[Text] The draft constitution came under fire at a Nation Roundtable last night for virtually blocking any efforts by MPs to [Member of Parliament] to later amend it, for requiring the majority party to form a coalition government, and for the provisional clause which would allegedly allow the military to keep their powers through a nine-man Constitution Committee.

The nine-man committee will select 1,350 candidates to the Senate who will elect among themselves the 270 members of the Senate, which will be empowered to push for an extraordinary session of the House.

But two members of the drafting panel, Deputy Premier Michai Ruchuphan and Deputy Cabinet Secretary Generl Dr Witsanu Khrua-ngam, succeeded to a certain extent in assuring the critics that they did not draw up the constitution in conformity with "the blueprint" of the National Peace Keeping Council [NPKC].

The only point which they found hard to explain was why the draft extended the NPKC's existence and its absolute powers, including summary execution which can be ordered by the premier and the NPKC chairman under Article 27 of the provisional constitution.

The first flaw of the draft, according to the three critics at the roundtable, is the requirement that at least a two-thirds majority in the two Houses must approve any constitutional amendment in its first reading. This would require the support of all 360 MPs and 40 other senators.

For the second flaw, Associate Perfessor Phokhim Pholakun of Ramkhamhaeng University's Faculty of Law pointed out that the requirement for MPs to waive their legislative powers during their presence in the Cabinet would effectively prevent a party with a simple majority in the House to remain stable.

If a party won the simple majority of 181 seats in the House and 40 of them were appointed to the Cabinet, its support would dwindle to 141. Although the full membership in the House would be reduced from 360 to 320, the majority party would be short of commanding the majority.

"This will in effect run counter to the political ideal of promoting a one-party rule," he said.

Michai and Witsanu admitted that this was so. But Michai clarified that the overriding concern in drafting this constitution was different from that during the formulation of the dismantled constitution. In the past, the overriding concern was how to establish a stable government but at present it is how to counter a government which abuses its majority support in the House, said the deputy premier, who is also chairman of the drafting committee.

Democrat Surin Phitsuwan, meanwhile, protested that the transitional powers given the National Peace Keeping Council, the military-dominated National Assembly, and the interim government the NPKC formed, to recruit six of the nine-member Constitution

Council was a way of retaining the miltitary's power throughout the following seven years. The committee's term is seven years.

After the transitional period, the House, the Senate, the government and the juridical committee would each recruit two members of the Constitution Committee who would elect an outsider as its chairman.

Solidarity leader Bunchu Rotchanasathian emphasized that the flaws in the dismantled constitution should be rectified by strengthening the existing mechanism instead of establishing new ones, such as the office of the ombudsman.

The ombudsman would be empowered to receive complaints from the public on administrative problems, publicize his findings, and prod the government to solve them or bring them to the attention of the House.

Bunchu said the existing House committees' loopholes should first be plugged.

Probably more extreme than the other critics, Surin summed up his thinking on the draft constitution:

"The draft will not improve democracy at all. The new mechanisms proposed by the drafting committee are, at best, icing on the cake. It was not worth the coup for that matter."

Peace Keeping Council: Summary Powers Not Needed

BK2407030991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Jul 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Constitution Must Give Rights Not Restrictions"]

[Text] One of the first formal pledges made by the National Peace Keeping Council [NPKC] after the February 23 coup d'etat was to effect a speedy return of democratic rule. A similar pledge was made by the interim administration of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun after it assumed office. Now, five months after the military takeover, these pledges are subject to growing scepticism. The new constitution may well be promulgated by October and elections held early next year as the NPKC recently promised. But whether these will return the country to genuine democracy is a different matter.

Concern has already been raised in political and academic circles that a return to genuine democratic rule may be elusive given controversial provisions in the draft constitution which, if approved, are bound to have a serious impact on the future course of Thai political development. For a start, Monday's decision by the Constitution Drafting Committee to retain controversial Article 27 of the interim constitution in the new constitution in the form of a provisional clause does not augur well for what should otherwise be the beginning of a new democratic era.

The drafting committee had argued that it was necessary for the NPKC chairman and the prime minister to continue being equipped with the sweeping powers under Article 27 in the crucial transition period during and after elections so that such powers could be used to deter any attempt at another coup. Unless members of the drafting committee are privy to information that is not known to the public, the rationale behind this reasoning is strange to say the least. Who else aside from th military top brass in the NPKC could possibly mount another coup? Otherwise, any serious incidents that are disruptive to public order can be dealt with by existing laws. This proposed clause is therefore unnecessary and counter-productive. In the words of one critic, it tends to perpetuate the symbolism of dictatorship.

Another controversial provision in the just-completed draft constitution centres on what can effectively translate into a contituation of NPKC influence in the all-powerful Constitutional Committee. By deciding on an 8-year lifespan for this committee, and by authorising the NPKC to directly and indirectly name four of the eight appointees for this committee (the ninth person is to selectd by the eight), the constitution drafters have either inadvertently or consciously legitimised at least partial NPKC influence over the 8-year period. To be fair, members of the Constitutional Committee who will be appointed either by the NPKC or the Government will have to be judged by their future conduct. But given the NPKC's professed intention to dissolve itself after the power transition, matched by calls from various quarters for it to do so, the very principle of the constitutional drafters' proposal is questionable.

More disturbing is another crucial provision laid down by the constitutional drafters which will render future amendments to the new constitution extremely difficult, if at all possible. A requirement in the last constitution for half the total number of the House of Representatives and Senate members combined to effect a constitutional amendment was already problematic enough. This time around, such an amendment will require approval of two-thirds of the two chambers in the first and third readings. The constitution drafters may genuinely feel that the new charter they have drafted is best for the country and hence should be retained. But they should ask themselves whether it is in keeping with good democratic principles to try imposing something on a new generation of people's representatives by making future amendments more difficult than necessary. They should also ask themselves what mandate they have to do so.

In its present form, the draft charter is bound to raise public criticism and debate in the weeks ahead. The drafters—as well as members of the National Legislative Assembly who will have to deliberate the new charter—should be broad-minded enough to take stock of public sentiments and make the necessary changes to ensure that Thai democracy will progress rather than regress.

Anan Downplays Fears of Powers During Election

BK2407011591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jul 91 p A2

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday played down fears that the summary power given him and the National Peace Keeping Council would be exercised during the run-up to the next general election.

"Why? You want (the power) to be used?" he asked reporters at Government House.

The absolute power given under Article 27 of the interim Constitution will remain until an elected Parliament convenes its first sesion. Critics say the maintenance of such power would create a climate of fear, thus negatively affecting the next general election.

Anan suggested that maintaining Article 27 was "theoretically" necessary in order to keep law and order during the election period.

"Theoretically keeping Article 27 is one thing, exercising it is another," the caretaker prime minister said.

Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday also downplayed the constitution-drafting committee's decision to maintain Article 27 during the transitional period.

"We have to listen to reasons given by the constitution-drafting committee before judging whether it is necessary to keep Article 27," he said.

Democrat leader Chuan Likphai, meanwhile, said the drafting committee decided to keep the controversial article because "it doesn't believe that the (caretaker) government alone can maintain law and order" during the election.

But Chuan emphasized that Article 27 could not be used to terminate the general election deadline, which is stated in both the interim Constitution as well as the pending permanent constitution.

Chuan also criticized Anan for his recent comments that Thai people should display greater democratic awareness. Anan made the remarks in response to criticism against the constitution drafting, in which public participation has been extremely limited.

Chuan said Anan should not expect Thai people to rise against the coup leaders in order to preserve democracy.

How can ordinary people use knives, shot guns or slingshots to fight coup leaders?" Chuan said.

Anan and Army Commander in Chief Suchinda Khraprayun indicated yesterday it would be impractical to bar unscrupulous persons who are influential from elections.

"Everybody who is legally qualified can run in elections," Suchinda said.

Anan said it ws impossible to state in the new Constitution that "godfathers" must be banned from elections.

"We need a very clear-cut description" rather than a mere "influential persons," Anan said.

Government Redraft of Patent Act Praised

BK2307065191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jul 91 p 20

[Text] The group of academics who strongly opposed the Government's move to amend the Patent Act is satisfied with the latest draft amendment.

Thammasat University's Faculty of Economic Professor Aphisit Wetchachiwa said yesterday he and a group of doctors and pharmacists welcomed the latest draft of the Patent Act, which had been amended in several areas and was better than the earlier draft.

He said the amendments proved the committee reviewing Thailand's intellectual property rights protection had accepted the opposing arguments and corrected its draft in the public's interest instead of bowing to U.S. demands.

The committee is chaired by Commerce Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsarasena.

Dr Aphisit said in the latest draft amendment, the compulsory licensing clauses were corrected to ensure that patent holders would not use their exclusive rights to take advantage of the public.

It also opened an opportunity for others to import the products as well if patent holders' exclusive imports created a heavy burden for consumers.

He said the committee also increased the power of the price-monitoring board to prevent patent holders from raising prices or creating a shortage that could adversely affect the public.

At the same time, the structure of its price-monitoring board would be chaired by Public Health Permanent Secretary, and excluded representatives of international pharmaceutical producers from the board.

But the academic group considered some provisions should be included, particularly the transitional period before laws governing pharmaceutical products were enforced.

"It would be a transitional period at least five years, but it may be difficult to convince our American counterpart to accept this," he said.

Paper Questions 'Sincerity' of Student Movement

BK2507015591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jul 91 p A8

[Editorial: "Thai Student Movement in Utter Disarray"]

[Text] A group of students from Ramkhamhaeng University hit the headlines last week when they accused M.R. Khukrit Pramot of "hypocrisy" in his criticism of the military. They demanded to see the 80-year-old former premier to deliver a protest note. When the "Guru of Soi Suan Plu" refused to see them, they displayed a protest banner in front of his home and took turns in a tirade against M.R. Khukrit. The next morning several newspapers published pictures of the event on their front pages and referred to the protesters as "students" of the open university.

A second group, also claiming to be university students, staged a brief demonstration in front of the Defence Ministry to accuse a military-run radio programme of bad-mouthing democracy. This group charged that the military exaggerated the pitfalls of democracy in order to justify continued military intervention in national politics.

Yet a third group showed up in front of the National Peacekeeping Council's headquarters the other day to show what it claimed was "students' support" for the military council's purge of corrupt politicians and attempts to create a more stable parliamentary political system.

On Monday, leaders of Ramkhamhaeng University's Sajjatham (the Truth) student party called on M.R. Khukrit to apologize for the rudeness of the first group. They noted that these protesters used to work for the infamous right-wing Sabha Patiwat (peaceful revolutionary council). One of their group died in a fiery accident during an anti-corruption protest in front of the Ramkhamhaeng campus last year.

Also on Monday, a military spokesman urged the protesters in the second group to listen to the military radio programme more carefully instead of jumping to hasty conclusions. This will no doubt arouse this second group to respond with a strongly-worded statement, or perhaps even with another demonstration in front of the Defence Ministry.

It is also only a matter of time before the first group call a press conference to hit back at its rivals from Sajjatham. At the same time the third group might publicly voice their concern about the "deteriorating" situation and urge the NPKC to delay the general election.

Amid all these conflicting roles being played by students—and, let us admit it, professional agitators who pose as students—one wonders which group truly represents the student movement in Thailand now. Perhaps it is the Student Federation of Thailand [SFT]. But this umbrella student body no longer provides the leadership in the way its powerful predecessor, the National Student Centre of Thailand [NSCT], did in the early 1970s, particularly during the uprising against the military dictatorship in October 1973.

The NSCT was destroyed along with democracy in Thailand by the coup in October 1976. The reemergence of student activism in the late 1970s and early 1980s was tainted by military and political manipulation of student groups, especially those at Ramkhamhaeng, where almost anyone with a high school diploma can enroll as a student and set up a group for his or her own motives.

During the power struggle between ex-army Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, now leader of the New Aspiration Party, and then Premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan in the latter half of last year, some of the Ramkhamhaeng student groups openly sided with Chawalit, including those that held a protracted rally to demand Chatchai's resignation, which led to the fiery death of the one protester. On the other hand, the Student Federation of Thailand was relatively complacent as SFT leaders were on cosy terms with Chatchai's policy advisers at Baan Phitsanulok.

After the Feb 23 coup, the SFT remained voiceless because it had long lost the credibility to speak for the student movement as a whole. It couldn't respond to the group applauding the NPKC for the coup because of its lack of credibility. Every move by the SFT is now under close scrutiny by the military, suspicious that the student body is still dancing to the tune of Chatichai's advisers.

It's pity that the student unions do not speak with one voice and pay more attention to pressing national problems like the widespread encroachment of national forest lands, the spread of Aids, and worsening environmental degradation, etc. The students must try to regain credibility by taking concerted action on long-term projects aimed at specific national problems, instead of taking sides in the ongoing power struggle between political parties and military leaders.

There will come a time when the students will have to take a clear political stand—for the continuation of democratization, of course. But first they must win back the hearts and minds of people with real hard work rather than publicity stunts.

They must clear the prevailing public scepticism so that when they make a truly significant statement, the people will not question their sincerity or ask who is backing them.

Vietnam

Soviet Envoy on ASEAN, U.S. Ties

BK2507082491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0816 GMT 25 Jul 91

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Hanoi, July 25 (AFP)—Vietnam's main ally, the Soviet Union, is favorable to Hanoi's rapprochement with ASEAN and the United States, the Soviet ambassador here said Thursday.

Rashid Khamidoulin also told a press conference that the Soviet Union would continue with cutbacks announced last year at Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay, its biggest overseas military base.

"We welcome favorably a rapprochement between Vietnam and other Indochinese nations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)," Mr. Khamidoulin said, though he doubted that such moves would be made in the immediate future.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. During its foreign ministers' meeting in Kuala Lumpur last week, it proposed regional cooperation with the communist governments in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, as well as regular talks about security issues.

Without giving a timetable, Mr. Khamidoulin said the Soviet Union would continue its disengagement from the air and naval facilities at Cam Ranh Bay, which during the Vietnam war was a U.S. base.

In the future, the ambassador noted, "the Soviet Union will no longer have an overseas military presence."

The Soviet Union made a partial withdrawal late last year from Cam Ranh Bay, which U.S. experts say has long hosted nuclear submarines and Bear and Badger bomber aircraft.

On the upcoming meeting in Bangkok between Vietnam's Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai and U.S Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs Richard Solomon, Mr. Khamidoulin said the United States has been "too slow in the process of normalizing relations with Vietnam."

"I think that ... the situation obliges the United States to advance more quickly, but this will take time," he said, adding that in U.S.-Soviet contacts, it was Moscow that pushed along the normalization process.

Hanoi and Washington have had no diplomatic relations since the Vietnam war ended in April 1975 with the defeat of the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese Government and the imposition by the United States of an economic embargo which continues today.

On Washington's so-called "road map" towards normal relations (word indistinct) Vietnam, made public a few months ago, Mr. Khamidoulin said it was "a bit too hard" and that many of its conditions were "outdated."

This was particularly the case, he said, for the two main conditions—the question of U.S. servicemen still listed as missing from the war, and a political solution to the Cambodian conflict.

On the former, the ambassador said, "the Vietnamese are making many efforts," while on the latter, agreements between the warring factions in recent weeks suggest that peace is at hand.

"If the United States wants to catch up, they must speed up, because there are other countries active here such as Japan and France," Mr. Khamidoulin said.

Despite the American trade embargo, several European and Asian countries have began to establish a commercial foothold in Vietnam, where a grave economic crisis has been heightened by an end to bilateral Soviet aid.

Mr. Khamidoulin said trade between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, expected to reach one billion dollars this year, was seeing "a considerable decline" after the first half, though he gave no figures.

On bilateral aid, he said there were now no more than 70 Soviet aid workers in Vietnam, compared to nearly 400 last year. Overall, some 5,000 Soviet nationals and their dependents live in Vietnam.

Vo Chi Cong Visits Oil, Gas Joint Enterprise

BK2507094991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] On the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the Vietnam-USSR Oil and Gas Joint Enterprise, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State visited Vietnamese and Soviet cadres and workers at the enterprise.

On hand to welcome Comrade Vo Chi Cong were Le Quang Thanh, secretary of the Vung Tau-Con Dao special zone party committee; Bui Hai Ninh, acting director general of the enterprise; Le Quang Trung, secretary of the enterprise party committee; (Ponomarko), deputy director general of the enterprise; (Kelijakut), secretary of the enterprise, and a large number of Vietnamese and Soviet specialists and cadres.

Vietnamese emulative hero Nguyen Dinh Cuong and his Soviet counterpart (Gornin), representing almost 5,000 Vietnamese and Soviet workers, presented a bouquet to Chairman Vo Chi Cong and pledged that workers of the enterprise will strive to fulfill the target of over three million tonnes of crude oil in 1991.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong talked cordially with leading cadres and workers of the enterprise. He also discussed with them issues related to their difficluties and measures to overcome them.

In his talk to the Vietnamese and Soviet workers, Chairman Vo Chi Cong commended them for their efforts and devotion. He asserted the significance of oil and gas exploitation, saying it is the most important task towards developing the national economy. He expressed the hope that all workers will do their best to exploit and produce more oil and gas for the nation, thereby contributing greatly to implementing the economic strategy and triumphantly carrying out the Seventh CPV Congress resolution.

During the past 10 years, the enterprise has carried out exploration in three zones and dug 24 oil wells—90 percent of them being found with deposits. The enterprise also discovered seven other areas with some oil and gas deposits. It is noteworthy that during the Seventh CPV Congress, the enterprise completed work at well no. 6 of the Mo Rong oilfield with satisfactory results. This will create favorable conditions for the exploitation work in the 1992-93 period. Meanwhile, construction of various fixed oil rigs at the Bach Ho oilfield has been completed. They will be put into operation together with two lighter oil rigs and the main central one.

After listening to reports by comrades Bui Hai Ninh and (Ponomarko)—acting director general and deputy director general of the enterprise respectively—on activities and achievements of the enterprise during the past 10 years, as well as orientations and tasks for the days ahead to fulfill the economic strategy set forth by the Seventh CPV Congress, Chairman Vo Chi Cong warmly commended the enterprise for its great efforts and achievements during the past decade.

On this occasion, on behalf of the CPV and the Council of State, Chairman Vo Chi Cong thanked the CPSU, the Soviet Union, and the fraternal Soviet people for their great, effective assistance to the Vietnamese oil and gas sector. The chairman also reminded specialists and workers of the enterprise about their heavy tasks in the days ahead. He expressed the hope that with the tradition of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries, the enterprise will triumphantly fulfill the 1991 targets set forth by the Vietnamese-Soviet Governments and increase the crude oil production output two to threefold or even more, thereby contributing to effectively implementing the renovation undertaking and helping the Vietnamese economy to overcome its difficulties.

VNA on ASEAN Ministerial Conference

BK2307080191 Hanoi VNA in English 0607 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 23—The ASEAN ministerial conference held recently in Kuala Lumpur is a clear indication of this organization's intention to strengthen its role and position in Asia not only in the economic domain.

That Malaysia, with the consent of other member countries, has invited the representatives of the Soviet Union and China to the conference is of great significance. Whereas in the past, ASEAN relied mainly on the United States, today, it cannot ignore the potentials and influence of the Soviet Union and China in the region.

In recent years, some ASEAN countries including Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have, to one extent or another made active contributions to solving the Cambodia issue. At the SNC meetings in Phatthaya (Thailand) and Beijing (China), important progress has been made toward a solution to this issue. The ASEAN countries have domonstrated a positive attitude toward this progress.

At the just concluded ministerial conference, the foreign ministers of the ASEAN countries voiced support for the efforts of concerned parties, especially of the Cambodian parties themselves, for an overall political solution.

However, many difficulties and complexities are still before ASEAN countries. Political upheavals are still threatening the stability of many ASEAN countries. The general elections in Indonesia and the Philippines in 1992 are considered potent flashpoints that might lead to political instability in these countries. Malaysia is burdened by a growing tendency to economic development along ethnic line which is likely to fan up ethnic conflicts. Thailand, for its part, is entering a complicated stage of political development while Brunei is wary that to give a free rein to private economy would antagonize the conservative religious forces.

In a word, ASEAN is before great opportunities as well as big challenges as Southeast Asia and the world are going through far-reaching changes.

ASEAN Conference 'Important, Significant'

BK2407130291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The ASEAN countries have concluded their annual ministerial conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with the readjustments to relations between ASEAN and other countries. Here is our radio's comment:

Though it is an annual conference, this year there were many new activities around the conference. What is new, important, and significant is that for the first time ASEAN countries invited representatives of the Soviet Union and China to attend this conference. In fact, ASEAN countries have held many discussions with the two countries. Moreover, from now on the two countries are regularly invited to the ASEAN ministerial conference. Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi said that ASEAN countries have invited the Soviet Union and China to attend their annual ministerial conference in Manila next year. This shows that the ASEAN countries pay much attention to their cooperation with the Soviet Union and China. It is clear that Southeast Asia is no longer the backyard of Japan, the U.S., and other West European countries. In the past, ASEAN relied mainly on the United States. Today, it cannot ignore the potential and influence of the Soviet Union and China in the region. This was expounded in the ASEAN ministerial conference declaration which says that ASEAN must be more active and have broad visions to strengthen security and economic cooperation with non-ASEAN member countries. This is seen as readjustments of ASEAN countries in the complicated world situation.

Another new thing from this year's ASEAN ministerial conference is their attitude toward the settlement of the Cambodian issue. The declarations of ASEAN's previous annual ministerial conferences often criticized Vietnam and the Phnom Penh Government. But this year, instead of criticism, there were positive actions to the results of the two SNC [Supreme National Council of Cambodia] meetings in Phatthaya, Thailand, and Beijing, China. They voiced support for the efforts of all concerned parties, especially of the Cambodian party themselves, for an overall political solution to the Cambodian issue. ASEAN foreign ministers said they would have a statement on recognition of the SNC. They will initially send representatives to present credentials to the SNC.

Because of these readjustments, the ASEAN ministerial conference this year has important significance. There were essential changes in their viewpoint and methods of cooperation and activities between ASEAN countries and other countries in the region and the world. Public opinion wishes that ASEAN will have more new positive activities to strengthen the world cooperation.

Do Muoi Receives Cambodia's Hun Sen on 24 Jul

BK2407152091 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 24—The General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Do Muoi, this afternoon received and had a working session with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, Hun Sen, on his way home after attending the informal meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC] held in Beijing recently.

Chairman Hun Sen and party arrived here this noon. They were met at the government's Guest House by Le Duc Anh, Politburo member and secretary of the Party Central Committee; Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister; and other senior officials. Kampuchean Ambassador to Vietnam Uch Borit was on hand.

Also present at the reception on the Vietnamese side were Le Duc Anh and Dao Duy Tung, Politburo members and secretaries of the Party Central Committee; Hong Ha, secretary of the Party Central Committee; and Nguyen Co Thach, and on the Cambodian side were Hor Namhong, foreign minister; Im Chhunlim, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [KPRP] Central Committee; and Kampuchean Ambassador to Vietnam Uch Borit.

Hun Sen, also Politburo member of the PRPK Central Committee, informed the results of the SNC meeting in Beijing. He brought out the goodwill and tireless efforts of the State of Cambodia aimed at quickly achieving an overall political solution to the Cambodian issue in conformity with the legitimate interests and aspirations of the Cambodian people, and for the sake of peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

The Vietnamese side valued highly the just stance and goodwill attitude of the State of Cambodia, welcomed the positive outcomes of the SNC meeting in Beijing with the election of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as SNC president. The Vietnamese side expressed its hope that the coming SNC meetings would bring about good results leading to an early equitable and reasonable political solution to the Cambodian issue on the basis of respecting the independence and sovereignty of Cambodia in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

The Vietnamese side noted with satisfaction that the SNC had tried to fully excercise its sovereignty to solve the internal affairs of Cambodia, and enjoyed foreign respect for the principle of non-interference in Cambodia's internal affairs.

The two sides hailed active contributions of the People's Republic of China to the results of the SNC meeting in Beijing on the basis of Cambodia's internal affairs being settled by the Cambodians themselves and foreign countries respecting the decisions of the Cambodian parties.

The reception took place in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendship and fraternal solidarity.

Military Commission Examines National Defense

BK2207042391 Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese June 91 pp 40-51

["Excerpt" from a report of the party Central Committee's Military Commission on the implementation of the 1986-90 national defense tasks and guidelines and tasks for the 1991-95 five-year period]

[Text] Over the past several years, together with the entire people, the Armed Forces have implemented national defense tasks against a background created by the complicated changes in the world situation, particularly since the end of 1989.

A comprehensive and unprecedentedly severe crisis took place in the socialist camp and developed to such an extent that it has disintegrated the socialist states in a number of Eastern European countries, thus exerting a negative impact on the world revolutionary movement.

Taking advantage of that situation, the imperialist forces have vigorously implemented a new global counterrevolutionary strategy aimed at quickly eliminating socialism from the whole world in this decade. Our Vietnamese nation is one of their key sabotage targets. Colluding with opportunistic and discontented elements and taking advantage of the complicated world situation, reactionaries at home and abroad have mustered their forces and have intensified their sabotage to overthrow our socialist regime.

In the light of the sixth party congress's resolution and the subsequent resolutions of the party Central Committee, the renovation undertaking in our country has scored very important initial results. Our party and people remain steadfast despite the fact that the situation is still fraught with numerous great difficulties and challenges and our country has not yet extricated itself from a socioeconomic crisis.

Against such a backdrop, the implementation of national defense tasks faced many difficulties. Nonetheless, by fully understanding and implementing the sixth party congress's resolution and specifically, the Political Bureau's resolution on national defense, we have completed many important tasks.

So far, the strategic adjustment which began in mid-1987 has been bascially completed. As a result, we have built a rational defense system and have formed a people's war disposition which is widespread and deep-rooted and covers key areas. Noteworthy is the fact that the building of defense networks at provincial and city levels has achieved great unanimity among all leading echelons and has scored initial results in the various localities (so far, all provinces and cities throughout the country have conducted local defense exercises). At the same time, on the basis of securing widespread frontal defenses and in cutting deeply into the enemy's positions, initial steps have been taken to formulate solid plans for key defense areas and a number of combat fortifications have been built.

Apart from building provincial and city defense areas, we have adjusted troop deployment nationwide to secure conditions for regular troop mobility in strategically important areas.

The building of provincial and city defense networks and key defense areas must continue to be regular and over a long time. However, if war breaks out, this task will surely testify to the superiority of the people's war in which each locality can engage in production and combat, cope with all forms of war, fight the enemy with all three categories of troops, engage in combat while mustering more fighting strength both in terms of manpower and material and technical bases, secure land and air defenses, and gradually broaden sea defense...

In the framework of the building of the people's war disposition, we have successfully effected important regular troop reduction in a relatively short time. In four years, more than 600,000 troops have been discharged (including nearly 200,000 salaried military personnel comprising officers, specialists, and national defense workers). In the short run, although it has given rise to many problems that need to be resolved, this major troop reduction has contributed to alleviating the common difficulties facing the country.

This major troop reduction is not a simple task because it must be carried out in a relatively short time. Many problems need to be resolved, especially with regard to salaried personnel who have not reached retirement age but who have become expendable because of the troop reduction plan. It is necessary to attach importance to the ideological task as well as to the formation of a policy toward discharged personnel. The party Central Committee's Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense have supplemented necessary systems and all sectors, echelons, and units have tried their best to help discharged comrades solve some of their problems. Most of the discharged comrades have been aware of the common difficulties facing the country and army. Therefore, they have voluntarily accepted the arrangements of the leadership. This is proof of the political quality of the contingent of our military cadres.

Indeed, in the framework of our strategic adjustment, we have scored "achievements" militarily, politically, and economically, thus securing a relative peace for everyone to concentrate on consolidating and accelerating national construction.

To secure conditions for troop redeployment and military personnel cutback, we have applied many important measures and policies toward combat and unit-building as well as combat support services as follows:

—We have studied and supplemented the strategic decisions reached by the Ministry of National Defense and the various military regions and military corps. We have also guided the various provinces in formulating new combat plans to deal with different circumstances, to cope with the outside enemy, to prevent the dark schemes and acts of sabotage of counterrevolutionaries at home, and to closely link national defense with national security.

—We have initiated a basic personnel cutback program and have improved the fighting strength of the armed forces, especially the various armed services, armed branches, and combat units, bearing in mind to need to attach importance even to agencies, schools, and establishments in charge of combat support services.

—We have reorganized a step further the militia and self-defense forces in the direction of limited quantity, better quality, and compact organization (the percentage of party members among militia and self-defense troops has been increased from 10.5 to 12.7 percent and that of Youth Union members from 27.2 to 41.8 percent). We have developed the role of the militia and self-defense forces in safeguarding political stability and in maintaining security and order at grass-roots installations.

—We have initiated a program for building the reserve force, have formulated a reserve troop mobilization plan for each echelon and each locality, have completed the registration of a relatively large number of reservists, and have conducted an experimental reserve troop mobilization program in a number of localities.

—We have made efforts to accelerate military training and have attached importance to the tactical and technical skills of small-sized detachments.

—We have guided a pilot project for building a number of comprehensively firm and powerful regiments to support an accelerated expansion program aimed at improving the quality of the armed forces.

—We have accelerated the task related to military science and technology in accordance with the party's military thinking by keeping it in line with the real situations in the country and the armed forces and by linking it with Army building, training, and combat readiness. We have also attached importance to summing up the valuable experiences of recent wars of resistance. As far as military science is concerned, by August 1990, we have worked on 148 projects of all kinds, including 38 projects at the ministerial level. These projects cover many subjects like research on the enemy, military art, personnel organization, party-building, political task, logistics, technology, local military task, military history, and so forth. Regarding history, we have prepared key projects on the two wars of resistance against France and the United States, have assessed the fulfillment of the internationalist duty toward the Lao and Cambodian revolutions on the military front, and have summed up the activities of a 10-year period following the liberation of the south... As for military science and technology, we have initiated many projects on exploitation, utilization, enhancement, and maintenance of weapons and equipment. Thirty of those projects have been put into practice.

—We have continued to improve the educational system, have reorganized the network of schools and academies, have reviewed the student enrollment system, and have improved the curriculum, contents, and training methods to improve the quality of our cadre training program... After many years of difficulties, now we can resolve some problems concerning the availability of students for enrollment in the various training schools, especially leading cadre and political commissar training schools.

—We have adopted a new logistical supply system based on the new economic management mechanism to promptly meet the material needs of soldiers, especially those entrusted with a combat mission. We have persistently promoted the movement to grow vegetables and raise animals in areas around mess halls and living quarters and have also adopted other forms of production (like building materials production, afforestation, production support services, processing, and so forth) to improve soldiers' living conditions. Based on our permissible conditions, we have set aside an appropriate part of the budget to supply soldiers with adequate food and clothing and to help improve other aspects of their life.

—We have concentrated efforts on resolving some shortcomings in technical equipment supply and on overcoming some discrepancies between combat gear and combat support equipment, between repair demands and repair facilities, and between maintenance needs and the availability of storage facilities... We have supplied additional equipment to units on permanent combat duty and have also recalled a large volume of weapons; ammunitions; and equipment for repair, maintenance, and storage. Despite shortcomings and weaknesses, we have come to know how to handle material and means and substandard products, thus helping to generate some funds to guarantee adequate technical supplies and to build storage facilities.

Along with adjusting the strategy, we have victoriously fulfilled our international obligations to the Cambodian and Lao revolutions.

On the strength of having helped our friends mature comprehensively so that they can assume the task of defending their own country and revolutionary gains, all the volunteer Vietnamese troops have withdrawn home.

In Cambodia, following the withdrawal of our volunteer troops, the enemy has accelerated its military operations aimed at grabbing land and expanding its area, and building bases. It has built underground forces to conduct acts of economic, political, ideological, and organizational sabotage. However, our friends are still able to hold important areas. The struggle between revolutionaries and counterrevolutionaries is still going on fiercely.

The great and effective assistance of our people and troops to the Lao and Cambodian revolutions in the noble and shining spirit of internationalism has increasingly consolidated and developed the friendship and special solidarity between our people and troops and the revolutionary peoples and troops of Laos and Cambodia. All the enemy's distortional and divisive propaganda campaigns in history as well as at present have been rejected. The action by the volunteer Vietnamese troops and the bright and disinterested acts, sacrifices, and discipline of our cadres and combatants have offset the shining proletarian internationalism of the Vietnamese revolution, people, and party, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam state.

Along with consolidating the relations of friendship and solidarity with Laos and Cambodia, we have always maintained the same with the Soviet Union. Our friendship and solidarity with Cuba has developed well. Our relations with South Asia and Southeast Asia countries, especially India and Indonesia, have developed further to a new step.

The tasks of defending and protecting the Truong Sa [Spratly] archipelago and southern continental shelves of the country have been performed continually well.

Since the end of 1987, we have paid attention to intensifying the defense of Truong Sa. Against the acts of aggression and encroachment, our units have resolutely fought with self-restraint to prevent them from becoming major conflicts. Then, with the assistance of the entire country, we have urgently intensified the defense of this strategic area.

Along the northern border, we have actively eased tension on the basis of firmly preserving territorial sovereignty and have closely and effectively combined the political and foreign policies of the party and state in the new situation.

Since 1987, we have advocated the policy of self-restraint, intensified the propaganda campaign to motivate the Chinese people and troops to cease hostilities and restore the normal relations, gradually reduced the scale of conflicts by not resorting to gun battles all the time, and made the Chinese people and troops clearly understand our good will in practical deeds, thus creating conditions for ending the war. This is, of course, a dangerous and difficult ideological struggle. Our troops have had to endure and even though they have at times questioned the situation, they have always scrupulously implemented the higher echelon policies. This has indicated our troops' sense of discipline on the battlefront.

While restraining our action, we have step by step reorganized rationally our regular and regional forces on both front and rear lines, and shaped up correctly the defense positions in accordance with the lines and viewpoints on the all-people defense and the people's warfare along the border. The situation in the border area over the past year has proved the correctness of these policies.

Moreover, we have not slackened our vigilance. We have intensified control by directing border units to overcome shortcomings in combat strength and preparedness, and have held conferences to discuss the consolidation of defense in border provinces.

While implementing urgent military tasks, our troops have strived to raise comprehensively the quality of their political knowledge and have succeeded in firmly preserving their political ability in facing new ordeals.

Our troops have persisted in following the path of socialist revolution and have adopted correct political orientations when faced with the recent major and complex events in the international situation. This has resulted from a long course of educating, forging, and building troops politically, and also directly resulted from vigorously intensifying the ideological tasks in accordance with the party Central Committee resolutions since the occurrence of complex events in some East Europe socialist countries.

In the past few years, by implementing the sixth party congress resolution and adopting correct orientations and leadership mechanisms (Chapter VI of party statutes), we have concentrated on building the Army politically to serve as a base on which to enhance the overall quality of the Army, ensuring our troops remain steady and persistent under all circumstances; absolutely loyal to the party, country, and people; and determined to defend the country and the socialist regime.

We have intensified the political and ideological tasks to make cadres, party members, and combatants thoroughly understand and unanimously agree with the party lines; persist in their socialist objectives and ideals; resolve to implement the renovation process according to the viewpoints, principles and steps of the party; struggle resolutely against all erroneous and reactionary viewpoints; enhance their revolutionary vigilance and combat will; oppose all manifestations of illusory and confused thoughts; uphold independence, self-control and self-reliance; foster and develop the revolutionary nature and fine traditions of the people's Army; and strengthen intramural and Army-people unity, and international solidarity.

We have strived to consolidate the party leadership over the Army, restored and consolidated the system of party committees from the Central Committee's military commission down to party bases, raised the standards of leadership and militancy of all party organizations, further trained and enhanced the quality of party members, and intensified party control.

Attention has been paid to building a contingent of cadres to meet the new requirements. We have planned the assignment of cadres and have placed them as planned to meet both the need to renovate and maintain successiveness and militancy while overcoming a the structural imbalances. Through education and ordeals, an absolute majority of party cadres within the Army have proved to be standing firm in the complex situation.

While we have not had conditions for settling the issue of policies basically and comprehensively, we have concentrated on resolving step by step the most pressing problems to motivate the combat troops, non-commissioned officers, enlisted men, cadres, and specialists, and to ensure the reduction of personnel strength and the number of cadres. Better interest has also been paid to the Army's rear. Noteworthy was the movement to build "Love and Integrity Houses" in many localities.

We have intensified control and juridicial work aimed at consolidating Army discipline, accelerated the implementation of national defense tasks, partly institutionalized various tasks in the Army and helped implement the various state policies on political security and social order and safety.

Together with the aforementioned renovation results, we have replanned a step further the network of national defense factories, strived to consolidate the existing ones, satisfactorily completed the half-finished projects, made in-depth investment in some factories...to maintain and improve the weapon manufacture industry, raise the quality of products (both defense and economic goods), preserve the contingent of technicians, and prepare for next plans.

At the same time, we have consolidated and reorganized a step further all Army units specializing in economic building, and have oriented the tasks of these organizations with a view to combining production and economic building with the consolidation of national defense, placing emphasis on strategic areas and sea zones, and on the objectives of modernizing equipment and developing some spearhead technical sectors.

Looking back generally over the past four years of struggle to implement the sixth party congress resolution, we have made considerable progresses in the renovation process in the military and national defense fields.

Most prominent of all are:

1. We have successfully completed a major strategic adjustment, deployed forces to the various directions of the theater of operations, strengthened the defense organization in crucial directions, consolidated the people's warfare position, completed a step further the building of defense areas in provinces and cities, achieved an important step in reorganizing the regular force and considerably reducing the personnel strength, created conditions for peace, continually consolidated and developed the relatively peaceful situation, and ensured a favorable environment for national construction and defense.

2. We have concentrated on building the Army politically to serve as a base for enhancing the integrated quality of the Army. We have strived to strengthen the party leadership over the Army and national defense task, built the mechanism of party leadership, consolidated the network of party committees at all echelons, raised the level of leadership and militancy of all party organizations, enhanced the quality of cadres and party members, and intensified the party control task. We have concentrated on intensifying the political and ideological tasks to ensure that the Army can stand firm politically in the complicated situation; persist in pursuing the socialist objectives and ideals; satisfactorily perform the task of defending the party, socialism, national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and successfully discharge its international duty and its participation in building the country.

The above-mentioned results and progress must be credited to the following factors:

—The sixth party congress's resolution and other resolutions of the party Central Committee and Political Bureau have set forth basic standpoints and correct orientations, tasks, and policies.

—The party Central Committee Military Commission has renovated its thinking in many respects, has creatively applied the party's renovative line to national defense, and has firmly grasped and translated general standpoints and guidelines into realities. In addition to attaching importance to guiding all aspects of activities, the commission has concentrated its guidance on the implementation of targeted projects and has set forth correct procedures. It has also paid due attention to realities, has broadened democracy, and has strengthened internal unity and discipline.

—With the wholehearted assistance of the people and all branches and localities, cadres, soldiers, and national defense employees have made every effort to overcome difficulties and to satisfactorily defend the fatherland and fulfill the internationalist duty. Forged by trials and challenges, the vast majority of cadres have remained unaffected by the complicated situation, have demonstrated their fine political quality, and have effectively fulfilled all tasks.

On the other hand, if we compare the above-mentioned strong points and progress with the tasks and requirements set by the party's resolution as well as with the very complicated national and international situations, we will see that there is much room for improvement and that the results we have achieved in many areas are still limited and unsatisfactory.

There are many causes leading to the above-mentioned shortcomings and weaknesses.

Objectively speaking, one must cite the complicated developments of the class struggle worldwide, the enemy's acts of sabotage, the impact of the socioeconomic difficulties facing the country, and the failure to promptly supplement and adjust the policies toward the Army and national defense in accordance with the new situation.

Subjectively speaking, one must admit the fact that although the party's resolution on national defense has been promulgated, it has not been fully grasped by cadres in charge at all levels and in all party organizations and state agencies, thus limiting the effect of the implementation of this resolution.

Sometimes, the party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense have not accurately assessed the new strategy adopted by the enemy to eliminate socialism nor have they fully estimated the magnitude of the sabotage schemes of opportunism and rightism... With regard to leadership and guidance over work implementation, no uniform and effective measures have been adopted toward some areas of activities. Measures for enhancing the quality of military training and for improving the professionalism of cadres have not been on par with set requirements. Slow progress has been made in formulating equipment supply planning. No strict measures have been taken to oversee the management of weapons, equipment, and materials... Responsible organs of the Ministry of National Defense have not achieved close coordination in helping the ministry devise uniform and effective solutions to a number of complicated tasks.

In some units, party committees and commanding officers have not satisfactorily organized the implementation of resolutions, orders, and instructions from higher echelons, and have failed to secure strict personnel management. Some cadres have not possessed a very solid political background and a thorough understanding of the party's standpoints, nor have they taken the initiative in resolving the problems facing their units.

For more than four years now, the process of closely combining national defense with the comprehensive renovation of the entire nation along the socialist line has allowed us to draw many valuable experiences. It is necessary to make prompt efforts to sum up those experiences to accelerate the task of consolidating national defense and protecting the fatherland in the coming years.

In the years to come, based on the results and experiences derived from Eastern Europe and the Gulf War, the warmongering forces of imperialism will continue to accelerate their global counterrevolutionary stragegy by resorting to all kinds of perfidious and drastic measures aimed at attacking the socialist camp and the developing countries to achieve their strategic objective of eliminating socialism, ensuring victory for capitalism, and putting the entire world under the control of imperialism.

Following Eastern Europe, the enemy is directing its offensive spearhead against the Soviet Union and the remaining countries of the socialist camp. The Asia-Pacific region now draws much of the attention of the capitalist countries because it is full of complicated developments. Vietnam and other Indochinese countries belong to the list of the enemy's key sabotage schemes.

Regarding nationalist countries and developing nations, the enemy is implementing a policy based on military, economic, and scientific-technological strength to intensify oppression and exploitation, to contain and undermine the national movement for progress, and to consolidate its role as international gendarme.

Regarding the Indochinese countries in general and Vietnam in particular, they will step up the use of both armed and unarmed measures to different extents and on different scales in an attempt to provoke a socioeconomic crisis that would lead to a political crisis, thus step by step bourgeoisifying our society and compelling us to depend on imperialism and do away with socialism and national independence, which has been won with the sacrifice of our people's lives.

They are exerting efforts to sabotage our country politically and ideologically, intensify psychological warfare, criticize socialism and Marxism-Leninism and our party leadership and proletarian dictatorship, speak highly of capitalism, introduce the signboard of "pluralism", and demand "unlimited democracy." This is aimed at agitating the masses against the party and administration and then fomenting political turmoil for subversion. They seek all available means to neutralize various tools of dictatorship, especially the army and public security forces.

They still pursue a policy of economic blockade, isolation, and sabotage against our country. However, the blockade and embargo could be relieved or terminated at certain times.

They try to build up and develop reactionary forces in our country and use these forces to carry out sabotage activities. Meanwhile, they foster groups of armed reactionaries in exile and send them to infiltrate the country to coordinate with local reactionary groups in fomenting political turmoils, with combined political-armed activities, when they have a chance.

They also step up espionage and intelligence activities at a time when we adopt a policy of expanding external economic relations.

Not ruling out the possibility of the special situation in the world and region, if conditions permit, they may even use an element of the direct armed intervention task force to assist the local reactionaries in fomenting rebellions in accordance with the rapid reaction methods in some key targets, or acting in accordance with the mode of the "low intensity conflict" doctrine. Recently, they began to talk about "medium intensity conflicts!"

Obviously, these schemes and tricks of imperialism are being carried out and vigorously stepped up in our country. We must constantly heighten vigilance and remain alert against these schemes and tricks with effective countermeasures in order to firmly maintain peace, avert the danger of war, defense of the country, and safeguard and develop our revolutionary cause.

The socioeconomic situation in country will face tremendous challenges in the next five-year period, especially the first years of this period. Foreign loans and aid have been cut abruptly; export and import markets have been turned upside-down; and production, pricing, and life are still rife with difficulties. However, we have the basis for overcoming these difficulties. Thanks to its correctness and suitable steps of advancement, our party's policy of renovation is gradually creating positive changes in the country's socioeconomic life. Under the new economic structure and management mechanism, favorable conditions will be created for our people to more rapidly develop the production force and build up socialist production relations. The state has accummulated experience and become mature step by step in management work. Therefore, despite the many existing difficulties that must be surmounted, our country will be able to overcome all the ordeals in the immediate future in order to firmly maintain political stability, gradually carry out socioeconomic stabilization and development, and extricate itself from the socioeconomic crisis.

Faced with the requirements of national development and based on the enemy's schemes and possible acts against the backdrop of the new situation in the world, as well as on the characteristics of general situation in the country, we must have suitable strategies and tactics to resolutely and firmly maintain peace so as to carry out socioeconomic stabilization and development. Meanwhile, we must always heighten revolutionary vigilance and must build up the all-people national defense system and the people's armed forces with high quality and a sense of "self-reliance" to readily frustrate all schemes of sabotage and acts of war of aggression.

This is aimed at defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland; safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity; protecting the party and the socialist regime; and opposing the strategy of the imperialists in an attempt to abolish our socialist system and wage a war of aggression against our country.

On the basis of ensuring combat preparedness, we should actively mobilize troops to participate in building the economy with even higher results, practically contributing to national defense and economy. We should consolidate and step by step develop the network of national defense industries relevant to the development of national economy, thus helping raise national defense potential.

We should consolidate the special relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation with Laos and Cambodia in the new situation; firmly maintain friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, and build the relations of friendship and cooperation with regional countries in the domains of potentiality.

With a view to bringing into full play the sense of independence, autonomy and self-reliance, we should overcome the sense of dependence, pessimism, and vacillation; optimally exploit and effectively use all sources of potentials in terms of labor, scientific forces, and material and technical facilities of the army and the country, in order to effectively implement the national defense task and other assigned tasks. At the same time, we must practice thrift strictly in all fields and resolutely oppose corruption, waste, and smuggling. Our persistence in continually implementing various policies over the past five years has proved to be correct. We have closely watched realities in order to adopt relevant specific policies in a timely manner. We have coordinated closely with the Interior Ministry and other sectors and echelons to firmly control the plots and acts of reactionary forces both at home and abroad. Together with all the people, we must prevent and promptly smash all enemy operations.

In order to continually consolidate the all-people national defense and the people's warfare position, we must intensively educate the people on national defense tasks; accelerate preparations for mobilization (manpower, material forces, and national defense industries); build provincial and city defense areas to fulfill by all means the main requirements; fruitfully implement the plan to strengthen the defense of Truong Sa and Oil and Gas Zone I; and continue to build necessary strong defense projects in targeted areas.

In building national defense, we must concentrate on increasing the overall quality and combat strength of the armed forces, make them politically strong, raise the levels of socialist awareness, combat will, self-reliance, and sense of organization and discipline for cadres, party members, and troops, ensure that the armed forces remain politically strong in all circumstances and a loyal force of the party to defend the homeland and the socialist regime; effectively contribute to socialist construction, and persistently implement well international obligations in the new situation. We must step up the party building task, firmly consolidate party leadership over the army, satisfactorily prepare and conduct party congresses at all levels, systematize the effective implementation of all resolutions, accelerate the organization of party bases, build a contingent of wholesome and strong party members, and qualitatively enhance the establishment of youth and trade union organizations in the army.

On the basis of building a politically strong army, we should concentrate on dealing with the main tasks, aiming to raise the overall quality and combat strength of the army. We must give the regular army a rational personnel strength of high quality along the revolutionary line of standardization and gradual modernization. First of all, we should stabilize the staff organization and equipment of the army, raise the quality of basic and advanced training of cadres in schools and on the job, improve the quality of troop training in a manner consistent with realities, and perfect military lines and other fundamental issues concerning national defense strategy and military strategies and arts in the new situation. We must manage troops well in all respects: politics, ideology, combat preparedness, discipline, custody of weapons and equipment, livelihood, policy benefits, productive labor... We must ensure that the regular forces are well-seasoned, the reserve mobilization forces are strong, and the militia and self-defense forces are widespread and politically good.

Securing equipment and technical service is a strategic issue. We must urgently establish an equipment plan and on this basis, intensively secure the technical service to implement well the assembling, maintenance, safeguard, storage and repair of weapons and equipment; consolidate the network of warehouses and repair facilities, ensure long usage life of weapons and equipment, and strictly and effectively use those items not included in the table of organization and equipment. We must maintain and consolidate the network of national defense industries and raise the quality of national defense products while, at the same time, actively producing economic goods with ever better quality and efficiency. We must improve the manufacture of small arms in the direction of further modernization, produce necessary spare parts and materials required for the maintenance of weapons and equipment in tropical and seaside regions, and start building some factories to turn out products of urgent need.

CPV Directive on Congressional Resolutions

BK2507085191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Jul 91

["Text" of the 16 July Directive of the Secretariat of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee"]

[Text] To quickly apply the resolutions of the seventh party congress to life, all party committee echelons should organize their study to promote a thorough understanding of these documents among the entire party and people. This should be done in conjunction with the organization of a movement of action to implement the resolutions. This will thereby enable cadres, party members, and the people to correctly understand the viewpoints of the congress and the objectives and tasks to be achieved in the 1991-1995 period; to clearly see their advantages and difficulties; and to creatively apply the resolutions of the party congress in accordance with the situation of their localities and sectors. It will also enable them to overcome incorrect perceptions and criticize the allegations of enemies and bad elements aimed at opposing, sabotaging, and dividing us. In addition, it will enable cadres and party members to develop a correct viewpoint concerning the organization and personnel assignments of party committee echelons and democratic work methods. They will also be enabled to criticize all manifestations of unhealthy ideologies and the lack of concern for the common interests of the party and the people in the elections of party committees of the party organizations, including those at provincial, municipal, precinct, district, basic, and other levels during the second-round party organization congresses at all levels. A concrete program of action should be defined to create a revolutionary movement of the masses to effect visible changes in the situation.

Concerning the contents of the study activities during the second-round party organization congresses at all levels, attention should be focused mainly on the report by the sixth party Central Committee; the various documents submitted to the seventh party congress; the report by the seventh party congress Presidium on the major issues already debated at the congress, with conclusions drawn and votes taken; and the amended party statutes.

On the basis of the contents mentioned above, delegates to the second-round party organization congresses should creatively apply the documents of the seventh party congress to the elaboration of the reports and resolutions on the political tasks of their party organizations, and elect executive committees that fully meet the established criteria to ensure efficient implementation of the set political tasks. The forms of organization and methods of study to be used by delegates to the second-round party organization congress will be decided by the provincial and municipal party committees. At the upcoming party chapter congresses, all party members, whatever their positions, must participate in party meetings and meticulously study the party statutes so as to clearly understand the new regulations, uphold their sense of responsibility, discharge party members' duties, implement the party statutes, and criticize all manifestations of the tendency to belittle party chapters' activities and any signs of violating the party statutes. Regarding the various sectors, party and state organs, the armed forces, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and the mass organizations' executive committees, their heads or the party groups concerned, should arrange for cadres to study the documents mentioned above and to set forth concrete programs of action.

Following the study of the above-cited contents, it is necessary to organize another drive for a more profound study of the documents of the seventh party congress. The Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute, the regional Nguyen Ai Quoc Schools, and the provincial party schools should open short-term refresher courses on the seventh party congress documents for key leading cadres in charge of organizing the drive. Among cadres, party members, and members of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the main form of organization is on-the-job study in party and union chapters, which should be done in conjunction with the formulation of practical programs of action for each party organization, organ, and unit. The papers to be studied are the documents of the seventh party congress. Discussions of these documents must be held and questions must be answered in accordance with the plans and guiding theses provided by the Ideology and Culture Department of the Party Central Committee. This study drive should be completed by April 1992 at the latest. Party committee echelons should arrange for cadres directly in charge of ideological work, such as propaganda and training cadres; cadres who work for the press, radio stations, and publishing houses; and lecturers, writers and artists to concentrate on studying and gaining a deep understanding of the line and viewpoints of the seventh party congress so as to be capable of propagandizing and disseminating the seventh party congress resolutions.

The party Central Committee Science and Education Department must coordinate with the party Central Committee Ideology Culture Department in helping the Ministry of Education and Training to furnish teachers with education on the contents of various documents of the party congress and to introduce the key contents of these documents to the main political curriculum of students at all colleges, advanced schools, general middle schools, and vocational schools.

The party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department must coordinate with the Overseas Party Affairs Committee in formulating plans for a thorough study of the congress resolutions by party members, cadres, workers, and students who are currently working and studying in foreign countries.

Newspapers, radio stations, and the mass media must work out plans for propagandizing the contents of the congress's documents extensively among the people. They must also make clear the viewpoints, goals, and tasks laid down by congress along with conducting propaganda for the implementation of all immediate tasks, unfolding experiences from localities with a good performance of work, encouraging the mass movement to implement these resolutions, enhancing the militancy of newspapers and radio stations, analyzing and criticizing erroneous viewpoints, and struggling against the enemy's distortions and acts of sabotage. This is aimed at helping to firmly maintain and reinforce political stability and vigorously accelerate the process of renovation in every respect.

Plans must be formulated by the party, youth union, Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] and other mass organizations for propaganda and education among their members in order to launch a mass movement for action to implement the resolutions of the seventh party congress.

It is necessary to actively spread propaganda on the results of the seventh party congress to foreign countries to make the world people, as well as all progressive parties, organizations, and movements and friends in the world, understand accurately the situation in Vietnam and the policies of renovation of our party state. This is aimed at winning the support of the world public for for the cause of national construction and defense of our people.

The party Central Committee International Department must furnish data on the seventh party congress to all progressive parties, organizations, and movements and send our lecturers to a number of parties to brief them on the results of the congress.

The party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department must coordinate with the VFF Central Committee and the party Central Committee Overseas Vietnamese Department in formulating plans for spreading propaganda on the seventh party congress to Vietnamese living in foreign countries, as well as for informing of the situation at home. This is aimed at countering distortions and tricks of sowing division by the forces hostile to the Vietnamese communities in foreign countries.

Together with the party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department, the Marxist-Leninist Institute, the Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute, and the Institute of Social Sciences, the party Central Committee Science and Education Department must hold a conference on theoretical work in the fourth quarter of 1991. This is aimed at reviewing and evalutating theoretical work, as well as drawing on experience in this work, during the recent past and defining the orientations, tasks, measures for accelerating theoretical work and summing up realities in the new stage in order to clarify the fundamental issues in various documents of the seventh party congress. These departments and institutes must also provide a scientific basis for the concretization and development of the party's lines and viewpoints.

It is necessary to thoroughly understand and correctly apply the motto: Be permeated with the resolutions of the seventh party congress along with implementing these resolutions and match words with deeds. In every step of implementation, it is necessary to make a review, draw on experience, consider commendation, and draw criticism. It is also necessary to uphold the sense of responsibility in implementing the party's resolutions.

All party echelons and the comrade key leaders at all levels and in all sectors must assume responsibility and leadership over this study drive. When introducing and elucidating these resolutions, the comrade members of the party Central Committee and members of the executive committees of party organizations at all levels must raise the questions that should be brooded over by their localities, organs, and sectors.

All departments of the party Central Committee must assist its secretariat in directing and supervising the implementation of this instruction.

Report on National Savings Account Balance

BK2407124991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] According to information from the Vietnam State Bank, as of 15 July, the national balance of savings accounts is 3,355 billion dong, including the two highest balances of 734 and 443 billion dong in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, respectively.

Since 11 July, after the implementation of new interest rates for savings accounts—which are 3.5 percent for three-month fixed-term accounts and 2.1 percent for savings accounts—the balance of national savings accounts is increasing slowly and is not the same in different localities.

Balance of savings accounts in Ho Chi Minh City increased 2.4 billion dong, and in Hanoi increased two billion dong, including 1.7 billion dong in cash. Savings account balances in the provinces of Hau Giang, Long An, Hai Hung, and Ha Nam Ninh have increased but are not stable.

Haiphong's balance decreased more than 500 million dong. Some believe that the decreased balance is not completely due to the changes in interest rates, but also due to the issue of national bonds in that area.

After the implementation of new interest rates, the market is basically stable and the prices of staple goods are not increasing very much, except the price of gold and U.S. dollar exchange rate. The gold price increase is partly due to the price increase in the international market.

Based on the fact of slight changes in the balance of savings accounts, bad elements have spread a false rumor that the currency will be changed, and new currency will be issued. The Vietnam State Bank quickly denounced that rumor so the people and economic units can feel assured doing their business.

Directive on Sericulture Development Issued

BK2407110991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers recently issued a directive on promoting the development of mulberry, silkworm, and silk production. Over the past few years sericulture has proven to be an efficient economic sector capable of strong development in the years ahead, the chairman instructed the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the provincial and city people's committee, and the sectors concerned with organizing the effective planning and building of sericulture areas, silkworm nursery systems, and raw silk processing enterprises nationwide. In particular, investment should be concentrated on the following: Expeditiously expanding and determining the form of the key zone of mulberry and silkworm farming and silk industry in Lam Dong, and rapidly expanding a number of areas in midland and mountainous provinces, such as Son La, Dac Lac, etc, where much arable land is still available and soil and climatic conditions are favorable. Efforts should be made to continue to quickly develop sericulture in those areas where people have experience in, and a tradition of, mulberry and silkworm farming in the Red River delta and Central Vietnam's coastal region.

Regarding concrete measures of implementation, the directive pointed out: Sericulture as practiced by the people is to be the principal undertaking. The state-operated economic units' effort will consist mainly in controlling key mulberry and silkworm farming areas, concentrating on expanding the mulberry-growing area, and providing production and marketing services for peasants. They will also consist of organizing the processing and exportation of sericulture products, consolidating and increasing investment for the various sericulture scientific research centers and mulberry and silkworm nurseries, and ensuring the creation of high-yielding strains of good quality and the provision of sufficient mulberry saplings for planting by the peasants, thereby exploiting their labor capabilities, capital, and experience. It is necessary to broaden cooperation and joint ventures in production with foreign countries and to obtain foreign loans for investment in order first of all to open up new land for mulberry and silkworm farming, to build silk reeling enterprises, and to gradually set up enterprises specializing in the production of high-grade products from raw silk materials. A contingent of skilled workers must be trained for mulberry and silkworm farming, especially workers specializing in silkworm raising, silk reeling, and silk making techniques. Training in the transfer of sericulture techniques to the peasants should be widely organized.

National Assembly Deputies Contact Voters

BK2407152191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] To prepare for the coming ninth session of the Eighth National Assembly, the Quang Tri deputy delegation held many contacts with the voters in seven districts, wards, and some sectors and levels in the province.

The public voiced their opinions, concentrating on the lack of strict implementation of the state regulations and laws. They said that the state has promulgated many laws and regulations, but has not had plans to check on their implementation. The implementation of laws has been quite limited. Some laws have even been ignored.

Land disputes have emerged in the rural areas and the government at some levels does not know how to solve the problem.

Many voters suggested that the state should only impose tax on land but not on the income arising from the land. Some suggested the party and state pay more attention to mass mobilization work, divide the duties and clearly define the role of the party and government in the mass mobilization work, and create better working conditions for the efficiency of the mass organization.

Seminar on Culture, Information, Sports Held

BK2407091591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] In Hanoi on 18 July 1991, the State Planning Commission held a seminar on the renewal of planning work in the development of cultural, information, and sports activities in the oriented-market economy system with the state management.

Many delegates attended the seminar, including those working in the cultural and finance fields and in the Central Department of Ideology and Culture; representatives from provinces in the plain areas in the south, the Central Highlands, and the mountainous areas in the north; and people working for radio, television stations and press agencies.

The seminar aimed at finding measures to solve problems in the planning field so suitable plans and policies can be implemented to stimulate cultural, information, and sports activities to better serve both people's daily life and national construction.

Nearly 20 reports, speeches, and statements at the seminar concentrated on the strong and week points of the elimination of the subsidy system in the fields of cultural, information, and sports activities; the definition of a non-productive service; and the existence of commodity production in the cultural, information, sports, and material and equipment trading sectors; the investment structure in culture, information, and sports; and the role of the state budget in cultural, information, and sports activities.

The opinions expressed at the seminar confirmed that the elimination of the subsidy system in the cultural, information, and sports sectors is necessary, but the state needs to adequately fund cultural, information, and sports activities and it needs to quickly promulgate laws on culture and arts so primary organizations can have a legal base to carry out their duties sufficiently.

University Holds Symposium on Teaching Method

BK2407161491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] On 23 July, Hanoi University held a symposium on the renovation of the content and teaching method of Marxist-Leninist topics. The renovation of content and teaching method of ideological issues is an urgent task at present according to the spirit of the resolutions of the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Resolution on Science and Technology in the Renovation Undertaking.

Many speeches mentioned the difficulties in teaching ideology at present, especially when contents and curriculum are out of date compared to social development. They agreed on the necessity to renovate the curriculum and teaching method of ideological issues.

Australia

Tanker Skipper, Crew Detained for Spill Inquiry

BK2307095191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT 23 Jul 91

[By John Yarwood]

[Text] Perth, Australia, July 23 (AFP)—The captain and some crew members of the stricken Greek tanker, Kirki, have been asked to stay in Australia until a government inquiry is held into the disastrous weekend oil spill off the west coast.

Meanwhile, angry fishermen are threatening legal action against the tanker owners if evidence emerges of damage to crayfish stocks in the Indian Ocean fishing grounds where the tanker spewed an estimated 15,000 tonnes of crude.

In another move, Western Australia state Premier Carmen Lawrence said charges might be laid in the wake of what is regarded as Australia's worst oil spill.

The crippled 97,000-tonne tanker, carrying a 20 million Australian dollar (15.4 million U.S.) cargo of Gulf crude to a refinery at Kwinana, south of Perth, broke up and caught fire Sunday. All crewmen were rescued by helicopter soon afterward.

Hopes were high Tuesday that the slick formed by the spillage would not be the environmental catastrophe first feared. The disabled tanker was being towed out to sea Tuesday, still leaking small amounts of oil from the 60,000 tonnes remaining in its tanks. But emergency workers said the slick was continuing to break up in favourable weather conditions and had not yet significantly polluted beaches or affected marine life.

It had been reduced to a length of about eight kilometres (five miles) and a width of about 600 metres (yards) and appeared static 12 km (eight miles) off the mainland, Western Australian Department of Marine and Harbours Spokesman Mike Brown said. Small amounts of oil had been washed up on islands, but damage was minimal, he said.

The chairman of the State Oil Pollution Combat Committee, Richard Purkiss, confirmed that Kirki's master, Eleftherios Efstathopoulos, and some crew members had been asked to stay in Fremantle, the state's major port, until an inquiry by the Australian Government's Transport Department had been completed.

They would be questioned and department officials would report on whether further action should be taken, he said.

Mr. Purkiss said many questions needed to be answered about how the vessel's bow broke away.

Ms. Lawrence said the inquiry could lead to charges and called for urgent international action on the threat caused by unworthy ships carrying dangerous cargoes. She also urged the Australian Government to take the lead in exploring the possibility of an international convention to cover maritime movements.

Current international maritime standards governing ships and shipping movements are not stringent enough and should be re-examined, she said.

Mr. Purkiss suggested the tanker's captain may have known the ship was in trouble for hours before he called for help.

"There is some evidence that supports the fact that he certainly had a problem," Mr. Purkiss said. "He did not report that problem and did not send a mayday (call) until almost the last minute. We are very concerned that he ended up very close to the Australian coast."

He said that hours before the Kirki sent out its mayday, the captain radioed that he would be arriving at Kwinana nine hours later than previously estimated. Although he was only 12 hours away from Perth at the time, he did not explain this comparatively long delay or say his ship was in trouble.

The Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers has said that the breaking of the tanker's bow suggested structural weakness. The institute's secretary Phil Olsen said bow weakness could be caused by a number of factors, including poorly repaired previous collision damage, conversion work or poor maintenance and corrosion.

Fishermen in the port of Geraldton, north of the spillage area, said they might join their counterparts in the small fishing town of Jurien, close to the slick, in legal action against the operator of the tanker if the slick affected crayfish stocks along the mid-west coast.

They say this is the time of the year when millions of crayfish larvae sink to the inshore reef floor for about four years until they grow to a harvestable size.

Leith Pritchard, the operations manager at Geraldton fishermen's co-operative, said there was no evidence of damage yet, but it was too early to be sure.

Fiji

Premier Sacks Minister After Refusal To Resign

BK2507035691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0343 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Suva, July 25 (AFP)—Fiji's Minister for Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Apisai Tora, was sacked from the military-backed cabinet Thursday after refusing to resign from the new political party he founded.

Mr. Tora, a long-standing ally of Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, said he learned of his dismissal just before Ratu Mara left for the South Pacific Forum Heads of Government Meeting in the Federated States of Micronesia.

A former trade unionist, Mr. Tora joined Ratu Mara's cabinet after the 1987 military coups which he had helped to provoke by organising demonstrations against Fiji's last elected government, led by the late Timoci Bavadra.

In April this year he founded the All National Congress party (ANC), and upon accepting its presidency in May he criticised the government's economic and political policies.

In particular, he attacked the government's handling of disputes in the sugar and gold sectors, and its land sales.

"I am leaving with a clean conscience and I hope to consolidate the ANC," Mr. Tora said in announcing his firing to reporters, adding that he had rejected Ratu Mara's ultimatum to quit the ANC.

"I saw no reason to resign when this interim government is neither elected nor a political one," he said.

Mr. Tora said that after the general election—due in May, 1992—the ANC would hold the balance of power between the pro- government Fijian Political Party and the opposition coalition of the National Federation Party and the Fiji Labor Party.

Papua New Guinea

Premier Faulted on Handling Bougainville Crisis

BK2407100891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] The Papua New Guinea opposition leader, Paias Wingti, has attacked the government for its handling of the crisis in Bougainville. Mr. Wingti claims that Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu has lost the trust of the people over his handling of the conflict with secessionist rebels on the island.

His attack follows shooting incidents on Bougainville and the neighboring island of Buka over the past week in which two security force members have died and three others were wounded.

Mr. Wingti said because of the government's failure to win the confidence of the people, it should leave attempts to resolve the crisis until a new government is elected at general elections in the middle of next year.

Solomon Islands

Solomons Dismisses Bougainville Protest

BK2407102391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Honiara, July 24 (AFP)—The Solomon Islands Wednesday dismissed an official protest from Port Moresby that rebels from Papua New Guinea had been allowed to disseminate anti-government propaganda here.

The Papua New Guinea Government had alleged that the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), which wants independence for the island, had been allowed to set up a liaison office here.

The office, "manned by Bernard Simiha, Ruben Siarra and Martin Miriori," had "propagated material against the national interest of Papua New Guinea," the protest said.

In its reply, the Solomon Islands Foreign Ministry said that all three men "entered the country through legal channels."

Mr. Siarra and Mr. Miriori, it went on, "came in on visitor permits and have since left for Bougainville."

The government in Port Moresby also said the BRA had been given access to "facilities" at Gizo, the administrative centre of the Solomon Islands' western district.

The western district lies close to Bougainville, a part of Papua New Guinea also known as North Solomons.

On Tuesday the leader of the opposition here, Andrew Nori, published a six-phase plan to bring Bougainville to independence within five years.

Under the plan the Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand would help assess and repair damage suffered by the island in fighting with government forces and in a six-month blockade imposed after the BRA unilaterally declared independence in May last year.

The blockade ended after the two sides signed a peace agreement in Honiara in January.

South Pacific

Urgent Action Called on Taiwan's Status at Forum

BK2507074491 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] The South Pacific Forum Secretary General (Henry Naifali) has called for urgent action on calls that Taiwan be admitted to the body's annual dialogue with its other main trading partners. (Mr. Naifali) was speaking at the opening in Ponape of the forum officials meeting prior to the heads of government summit next week.

Although he did not specifically refer to China and Taiwan, (Mr. Naifali) said it was an urgent task to review the dialogue meetings which will take place after the annual summit and the forum officials confirmed that the two China's issue was a predominant theme.

At last year's forum in Vanuatu, Nauru called for Taiwan's admission along with China to the dialogue, which also includes the United States, Britain, France, Canada, Japan, Germany, and the European Community. China protested strongly and the committee decided that the status quo would be maintained. However, diplomatic sources say Nauru is said to push the issue again this year.